
CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Vaccine Storage Equipment Requirements

All enrolled providers must have vaccine storage equipment that complies with the guidance in the CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit.

Temperature Monitoring Device

A requirement of the program is for 24 hour continuous temperature monitoring with a digital data logger or device that reflects actual vaccine temperatures and **not** ambient air temperatures. Each unit storing vaccine will need monitoring and each facility will need one back up device.

DIGITAL DATA LOGGER REQUIRED FEATURES

- Visible display with current temperature reading
- Alarm for out of range temperatures
- Low Battery indicator
- Minimum and maximum temperature display
- Detachable probe (buffered with glycol, glass beads, or sand)
- Logging interval rate that can be programmed to at least every 15 minutes
- Downloadable temperature data either to a computer using special software or retrieved from a website.
- Calibrated with a measurement of uncertainty of +/-0.5°C and comes with a Certificate of Calibration

CERTIFICATE OF CALIBRATION REQUIRED FEATURES

- Model/device name or number
- Serial number
- Data of calibration (report or issue date)
- Confirmation of tolerance
- Uncertainty value of device showing +/-0.5°C or less
- Statement conforming to ISO 17025 standards, *or* performed in an accredited laboratory, *or* other acceptable entity according to the Toolkit.

Vaccine Storage Units

Providers must have reliable vaccine refrigerators and freezers that maintain appropriate temperatures. The CDC recommends purpose-built pharmaceutical grade or medical grade units intended for vaccine use. Units must be placed in a well-ventilated room, have doors that seal tightly and cannot be overcrowded.

TEMPERATURE RANGE

Refrigerators must maintain temperatures between 2°C and 8°C

- **IDEAL: between 4°C and 6°C**

Freezers must maintain temperatures between -15°C and -40°C

- **IDEAL: no lower than -20°C**

HOUSEHOLD UNITS

Household-grade and other units that are intended for food storage can be used under certain conditions:

- The refrigerator must only be used for vaccines and medical purposes.
- No food can be stored in the unit.
- Vaccine cannot be stored in side shelves, deli bins or other food storage bins where temperatures fluctuate.
- The freezer section cannot be used or serve as storage for vaccine

**Note: Refrigerator temperatures can be impacted by freezer use and temperature adjustments*

DORM-STYLE UNITS

Vaccine can **never** be stored in a dormitory-style or bar-style unit. These are combined refrigerator and freezer units with a single exterior door and an evaporator plate or cooling coil in the freezer compartment. These units pose a significant risk of freezing vaccine.