



MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FACT SHEET

Ronald G. Rios
Chairperson, Committee of
Public Health & Education

David A. Papi
Director-Health Officer

732-745-3100

Vaccine Storage

- ❖ Influenza vaccines require storage temperatures between 35° and 46°F (2° and 8°C) and may be stored in the refrigerator compartment of a household- or commercial-style refrigerator-freezer unit. Small single-door (dormitory-style or bar-style) combined refrigerator-freezer units should not be used for permanent vaccine storage, unless unit can maintain 35°.
- ❖ You can help stabilize the temperature in the refrigerator by keeping at least two or three large containers of water inside.
- ❖ The temperature inside each compartment of the vaccine storage unit must be checked with a certified calibrated thermometer at least twice each day, once in the morning when the door is first opened, and once at the end of the clinic day just before the door is closed for the last time. These readings must be recorded in a log book.
- ❖ In the refrigerator, vaccine should be stored in the middle of the compartment, away from the coils, walls, floor, and cold air vent. Vaccine should never be stored in the vegetable bins. Vaccines should not be stored in the refrigerator door. (The temperature in the door is not stable and differs from that in the main compartment.) Refrigerated vaccines should always be stored far enough away from the air venting from the freezer compartment to avoid freezing the vaccines.
- ❖ Any refrigerator or freezer used for vaccine storage must:
 - ❖ be able to maintain required vaccine storage temperatures year-round
 - ❖ be large enough to hold the year's largest inventory
 - ❖ have a certified calibrated thermometer inside each storage compartment
 - ❖ be dedicated to the storage of vaccines.
 - ❖ Food and beverages should **not** be stored in a vaccine storage unit because this practice results in frequent opening of the door and destabilization of the temperature.
- ❖ Avoid using power outlets with built-in circuit switches.
- ❖ Consider using a temperature alarm that will signal when the temperature is not within the needed range.



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