

Equipment Requirements for Vaccine Storage

- Refrigerator and freezer must have **externally separate, sealed doors**.
- Refrigerator compartment must maintain temperatures between **35° and 46°F (2° and 8°C)**.
- Freezer compartment must maintain temperatures **5°F (-15°C)** or colder.
- Household-style units should have **separate thermostat/temperature controls** for the refrigerator and freezer.
- Both the refrigerator and freezer compartments must contain an **NIST- or ASTM-certified thermometer**.

Acceptable:



Household-style
(full size or compact)



Stand-alone refrigerator-only
(no freezer compartment)



Upright freezer
(no refrigerator compartment)



Commercial-style



Under counter refrigerator-only



Under counter freezer-only

NOT Acceptable:



Dorm-style



Units with a **Single External Door**, but have interior freezer and refrigerator compartments

Units used routinely to **Store Food**

REFRIGERATOR BUYING GUIDE

Office Size	Required Equipment
Very High Volume 10,000 doses/year	Pharmacy-grade or biologic-grade refrigerator-only units and stand-alone freezer units
High Volume 2,000-10,000 doses/year	Refrigerator-only (16.7 cubic feet minimum) and stand-alone freezer units
Medium Volume 500-2,000 doses/year	Refrigerator-only (16.7 cubic feet minimum) and stand-alone freezer units or Pharmacy-grade or biologic-grade under the counter units.
Low Volume Less than 500 doses/year	Refrigerator-only (16.7 cubic feet minimum) and stand-alone freezer units or Pharmacy-grade or biologic-grade under the counter units.

CERTIFIED THERMOMETER GUIDELINES

- Providers enrolled in the VFC Program are required to purchase calibrated thermometers for all refrigerator and freezer compartments used for VFC vaccine storage in order to monitor temperatures .
- Each device is to be covered by a Certificate of Traceability and Calibration. The traceability declaration is to confirm that the measurement standards and instruments used during calibration of the product are traceable to an accredited testing laboratory.
- Additional information regarding thermometers is available in the Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit located at <http://www2d.cdc.gov/nip/vsh/ToolkitWed/splash.html>

CERTIFIED THERMOMETER CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

CERTIFICATES MUST INCLUDE:

A title, such as "test report," "calibration certificate," or "calibration report"

Name/address of the laboratory where the tests/calibrations were carried out

A unique identification number on the report (and way for you to match this back to the thermometer)

Identification of method used & indication that the measurement standards/instruments used during the calibration are traceable to an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited testing laboratory, to NIST, or to another internationally recognized standards agency.

Test results and date of the calibration

Date the results are valid until (i.e., expiration date)

Identification (signature/name/title) of person(s) authorizing the calibration certificate