Preparing Freezers for Vaccine Storage

1. In an upright freezer, put a few cold packs in areas where vaccine cannot be stored, like the door, top shelf, and floor.

In a chest freezer, put a few cold packs in the basket at the top or on the floor.

2. You'll need to set up and get familiar with your data logger before using it to monitor temperatures. Refer to SCIAPPS https://www.scdhec.gov/Apps/Health/SCIAPPS/Public/VFCInfo for further instruction.

Have a back-up data logger handy in case there's a problem with the one in the freezer.

Place the buffered probe in the center of the freezer near vaccines.

3. Attach the digital display to the outside of the freezer, either on the door or on the side.

CURRENT, MIN, and MAX temperatures must be visible without opening the storage unit door.


5. If the freezer has a thermostat, set it below -15°C or 0°F.

If it has a dial with a range of settings, set it to the coldest.

Check the temperature the next morning. Adjust the thermostat until the temperature stabilizes below -15°C or 0°F.

6. Once the temperature has stabilized, record CURRENT, MIN and MAX temperatures on the log twice a day.

Do not store vaccine in the freezer until the temperature stays below -15°C or 0°F for 3-5 days.

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**Upright freezer**

**Chest freezer**

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**WARNING!** Do Not Unplug

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**Example of thermometer display**

Press the MEMORY CLEAR button on the thermometer every time you finish logging temperatures. If you press the MODE button by mistake, LO and HI will display. Press it again to see MIN and MAX.