

Step One: Select appropriate vaccine storage unit for specific vaccines (refrigerated or frozen).

- Ensure that the vaccine unit will reach the specific temperatures to safely store vaccines.
- Refrigerators and freezers typically used for vaccine storage are available in different grades (household and purpose-built) and types (stand-alone and combination refrigerator/freezer)

CDC Recommendations-Vaccine Storage Units

- Use of purpose-built units designed to either refrigerate or freeze
 - Can be compact, under-the-counter style or large units
- If purpose-built unit is not available, use stand-alone household unit
- If an absolute must use a household grade, combination unit – use refrigerator portion ONLY!!!

Step Two: Install unit at provider site upon arrival

- Appropriate setup of vaccine storage units are critical

External Factors for Unit Set Up

- Ensure good air circulation around the outside of the storage unit
- Well ventilated room
- Good clearance from ceiling, wall and other vaccine storage units
- Do not block the cover of the motor compartment of unit
- Ensure doors open smoothly and fits squarely against the body of the unit
- Ensure unit is plugged into an electrical outlet in wall (No outlets that can be tripped or switched off i.e. built in circuit switches (with reset buttons, power-strips, or outlets activated by wall switch)
- Mark electrical outlet “DO NOT UNPLUG” (contact Imz. Division for signage)

Internal Factors for Unit Set Up – See attached vaccine unit set up guides.

Step Three: Begin monitoring temperatures with certified calibrated Digital Data Logger (DDL)

- Install digital data logger per the manufacturer guidance for set up
- Review any training video or resources
- Install digital data logger buffered probe into the vaccine storage unit to allow it to adjust to temperature of the unit (30 minutes to 60 minutes)

Digital Data Logger Temperature Monitoring Settings

- Set temperature setting to Celsius
- Set the logging intervals to record every 15 minutes
- Set Lo/Hi temperature alarm limits for vaccines refrigerators and freezers (if DDL will not set at -50.1 °C set it to lowest temperature allowable)

Settings	Refrigerator	Freezer
LO	1.9°C	-50.1°C
HI	8.1°C	-14.9°C

- Alarms must be set to trigger at the 2nd consecutive 15 minute logging interval



Guidance for Purchasing of New Vaccine Storage Unit



Step Four: Send following documentation to the Immunization Division Provider Operations Unit by email scvfc@dhec.sc.gov or by fax at 803-898-0326

This information must be received prior to vaccine ordering privileges being reinstated.

- VFC Providers must have three (3) to five (5) consecutive days of *in-range temperatures documented and provided to the VFC program prior to storing vaccines in a new vaccine storage unit.
 - *In range temperature for refrigerator must be between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F), for refrigerator with an average temperature of 5°C (41°F).
 - *In range temperature for the freezer must be -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and +5°F)
- Documentation of temperatures must be provided on the appropriate DHEC temperature logs
 - *DHEC 3265--South Carolina Freezer Temperature Log - Celsius for Vaccine Storage Units*
 - *DHEC 3266 -South Carolina Refrigerator Temperature Log - Celsius for Vaccine Storage Units*
- Digital Data Logger Temperature Report
- Copy of invoice and/or picture of new vaccine storage unit.

Resource and Reference

1. CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>