

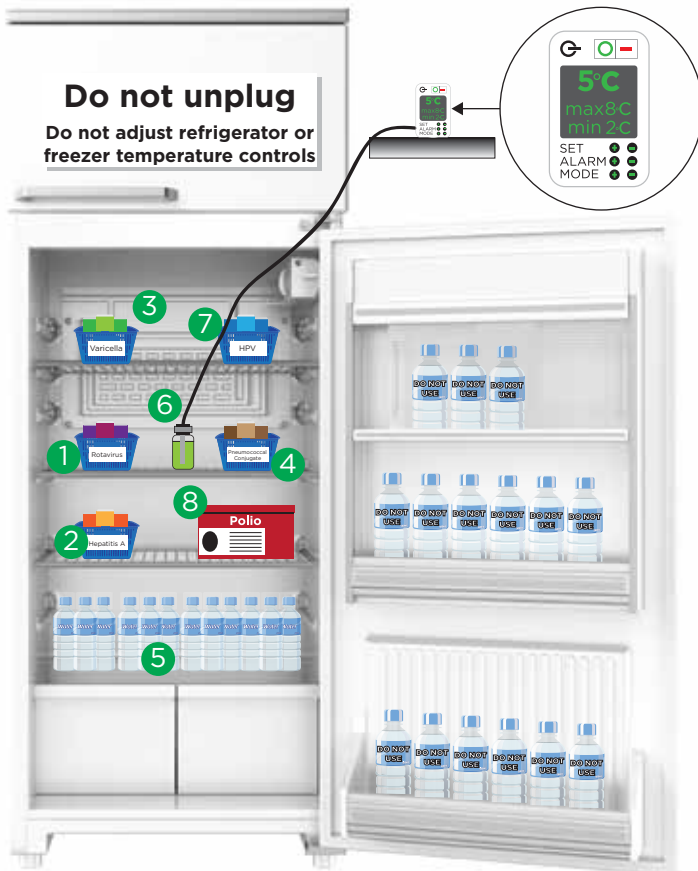
Refrigerator and Freezer Vaccine Storage Guidelines

Vaccine safety is patient safety. Do your part to maintain vaccine integrity.

Storage temperatures:

Refrigerator: +2°C to +8°C. Aim for +5°C.

Freezer: -15°C or colder



Storing:

- 1 Place vaccines in breathable plastic mesh baskets.
- 2 Label each basket with vaccine type. *Keep labeling methods consistent across all baskets.*
- 3 Keep baskets 5-8 cm away from other baskets and from walls to promote air flow.
- 4 Place vaccines in the middle of the unit, away from vents, walls and coils.
- 5 Store empty shelves and doors with full water bottles (refrigerator) or frozen packs (freezer) and label as 'DO NOT USE'.
- 6 Place a recommended temperature monitoring device in the unit. *Place a warning sign on the storage unit that says, 'Do not adjust refrigerator or freezer temperature controls.'*
- 7 Store vaccines with similar packaging and names (e.g., HB and Hib or Tdap and Td) in different locations of the unit.
- 8 Keep vaccines in their original packaging to protect against exposure to light.
- 9 Always store foods in a separate unit.
- 10 Frozen vaccines must be stored in a frost-free freezer.

*Do not use bar-style fridges or freezers and/or cyclic defrost freezers, as they can result in significant temperature variations in the unit.

Maintenance:

- Review expiration dates regularly and rotate vaccines with closer expiration to the front to be used first.
- Remove expired vaccines from the unit and label them as expired.
- Place unit on a dedicated circuit with safety lock or outlet cover.
- Place a 'DO NOT UNPLUG' sign near the outlet and on the unit door.
- Monitor and log BOTH the temperature of the unit and room temperature twice a day.
- Reduce the number of times the unit is opened during the day to prevent fluctuations in temperature.
- Monitor vaccine storage to prevent shortage and over-ordering during low- and high-season demands.

Reference:

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). (2015). National Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines For Immunization Providers 2015. Available: <http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/publications/healthy-living-vie-saine/vaccine-storage-entrepotage-vaccins/index-eng.php>