

Use This Checklist to Maximize Protection of Your Valuable Vaccine Supply

Checklist for Safe Vaccine Storage and Handling

Are you doing everything you should to safeguard your vaccine supply? Review this list to see where you might make improvements in your vaccine management practices. Check each listed item with either **YES** or **NO**.

Establish Storage and Handling Policies

- YES NO 1. We have designated a primary vaccine coordinator and at least one alternate coordinator to be in charge of vaccine storage and handling at our facility.
- YES NO 2. Both the primary and alternate vaccine coordinator(s) have completely reviewed either CD Storage & Handling Toolkit (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling.pdf) or equivalent training materials offered by our state or local health department's immunization program.
- YES NO 3. We have detailed, up-to-date, written standard operating procedures for general vaccine management including procedures for routine activities and an emergency vaccine retrieval and storage outages and other problems. Our procedures are based on CDC's Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit and/or on instruction from our state or local health department's immunization program.
- YES NO 4. We review these policies with all staff annually and with new staff, including temporary staff, when they are hired.

Log In New Vaccine Shipments

- YES NO 5. We maintain a vaccine inventory log that we use to document the following:
- YES NO a. Vaccine name and number of doses received
- YES NO b. Date we received the vaccine
- YES NO c. Condition of vaccine when we received it
- YES NO d. Vaccine manufacturer and lot number
- YES NO e. Vaccine expiration date

Use Proper Storage Equipment

- YES NO 6. We store vaccines in separate, sealed, hold-style combination unit, we store vaccines in a separate stand-alone unit.
- YES NO 7. We store vaccines in units with emergency access.
- YES NO 8. We never store any vaccines in a refrigerator or freezer compartment inside a unit.
- YES NO 9. We use only calibrated thermometer(s) and are calibrated every 1 year or as the manufacturer's suggested time interval.
- YES NO 10. We have planned back-up storage for our vaccine supply.

*Certificate of Calibration Testing ("Report of Call to a laboratory with accreditation from the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).")



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Are you doing everything you should to safeguard your vaccine supply? Review this 3-page checklist to see where you might make improvements.

Checklist for Safe Vaccine Storage and Handling (continued)

page 2 of 3

Ensure Optimal Operation of Storage Units

- YES NO 11. We have a "Do Not Unplug" sign (e.g., www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2090.pdf) next to the electrical outlets for the refrigerator and freezer and a "Do Not Stop Power" warning label (e.g., www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2091.pdf) by the circuit breaker for the electrical outlets. Both signs include emergency contact information.
- YES NO 12. We perform regular maintenance on our vaccine storage units to assure optimal functioning. For example, we keep the units clean, dusting the coils and cleaning beneath the units as recommended by the manufacturer.

Maintain Correct Temperatures

- YES NO 13. We always keep at least one accurate calibrated thermometer (+/-0.5°C [+/-1°F]) with the vaccines in the refrigerator and a separate calibrated thermometer with the vaccines in the freezer.
- YES NO 14. We use a thermometer that
- YES NO a. uses an active display to provide continuous monitoring information.
- YES NO b. is digital and has a detachable probe that has been buffered against sudden temperature changes by being immersed in a vial filled with liquid (e.g., glycol, ethanol, glycerin), loose media (e.g., sand, glass beads), or a solid block of material (e.g., aluminum, Teflon®).
- YES NO c. includes an alarm for out-of-range temperatures.
- YES NO d. has a digital data logger that indicates current, minimum, and maximum temperatures.
- YES NO e. can measure temperatures within +/-0.5°C (+/-1°F).
- YES NO f. has a low-battery indicator.
- YES NO 15. We maintain the refrigerator temperature at 2–8°C (36–46°F), and we aim for 5°C (40°F).
- YES NO 16. We maintain the freezer temperature between -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and +5°F).
- YES NO 17. We set the thermostat for the refrigerator and the freezer at the factory-set or midpoint temperatures.
- YES NO 18. We keep extra containers of water in the refrigerator (e.g., in the door and/or on the floor of the unit where the vegetable bins were located) to help maintain cool temperatures. We keep ice packs, ice-filled containers, or frozen water bottles in the freezer to help maintain cold temperatures and to have frozen water bottles available for conditioning in the event of an emergency.

Maintain Daily Temperature Logs

- YES NO 19. On days when our practice is open, we visually inspect the vaccine storage unit twice a day (first thing in the morning and right before our facility closes) and document refrigerator and freezer temperatures on the appropriate log. (See selections at www.immunize.org/clinic/storage-handling.asp.)
- YES NO 20. We document the minimum and maximum temperature readings in the refrigerator and freezer once each day, preferably in the morning.
- YES NO 21. We consistently record temperatures on the log either in Fahrenheit or Celsius. We never mix temperature scales when we record our temperatures.
- YES NO 22. If the temperature log prompts us to insert an "x" by the temperature that's preprinted on the form, we do not attempt to write in the actual temperature.
- YES NO 23. We follow the directions on the temperature log to call appropriate personnel if the temperature in a storage unit goes out of range.
- YES NO 24. If out-of-range temperatures occur in the unit, we complete the Vaccine Storage Troubleshooting Record (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3041.pdf) to document actions taken when the problem was discovered and what was done to prevent a recurrence of the problem.

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www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3035.pdf • Item #P3035 (11/16)

Checklist for Safe Vaccine Storage and Handling (continued)

- YES NO 25. Trained staff (other than staff designated to handle vaccines) are available to assist with vaccine storage and handling.
- YES NO 26. We keep the temperature logs on file for at least 1 year.

Store Vaccines Correctly

- YES NO 27. We post signs (e.g., www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3036.pdf) that indicate which vaccines should be stored in the refrigerator and which should be stored in the freezer.
- YES NO 28. We do not store any food or drink in any vaccine storage unit.
- YES NO 29. We store vaccines in the middle of the refrigerator (often near the top shelf). We do not store vaccines in the door or on the floor of the unit.
- YES NO 30. We have removed all vegetable and deli bin empty areas.
- YES NO 31. If we must use a combination refrigerator-freezer unit, we do not place vaccines in the freezer compartment. We place water bottles in this location.
- YES NO 32. We check vaccine expiration dates and rotate the earliest expiration dates are located close to the front of the unit.
- YES NO 33. We store vaccines in their original packaging.

Take Emergency Action As Needed

- YES NO 34. In the event that vaccines are exposed to improper storage conditions
- YES NO a. We restore proper storage conditions as soon as possible and move it to a unit where it can be stored before discussing the circumstances with the appropriate vaccine manufacturers.
- YES NO b. We follow the Vaccine Storage Troubleshooting Record instructions for taking appropriate action such as the length of time the vaccine was exposed to room temperature, as well as taking an inventory of the unit.
- YES NO c. We contact our clinic supervisor or other staff member, our state/local health department and/or the appropriate vaccine manufacturers for consultation about whether the exposed vaccine can still be used.
- YES NO d. We address the storage unit's mechanical or electrical problems according to guidance from the unit's manufacturer or a qualified repair service.
- YES NO e. In responding to improper storage conditions, we do not make frequent or large changes in thermostat settings. After changing the setting, we give the unit at least a day to stabilize its temperature.
- YES NO f. We do not use exposed vaccines until our state/local health department's immunization program or the vaccine manufacturer has confirmed that the vaccine is acceptable for use. We review this information with our clinic medical director before returning the vaccine to our supply. If the vaccine is not acceptable for use, we follow our state/local health department instructions for vaccine disposition.

If we answer **YES** to all of the above, we give ourselves a pat on the back! If not, we assign someone to implement needed changes!

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