Preparing Refrigerators for Vaccine Storage

1. Remove all drawers and bins. Vaccine should not be stored in refrigerator doors, drawers, or bins.

2. Fill the refrigerator floor with water bottles. Put water bottles in the door, on the top shelf (underneath the cold air vent). Do not block air vents.

3. Use a VFC-compliant thermometer to ensure accurate temperatures. For more information about thermometer requirements, go to EZIZ.org. Have a back-up VFC-compliant thermometer handy in case there’s a problem with the one in the refrigerator.

4. Attach the digital display to the outside of the refrigerator, either on the door or on the side. Set the modes on the display so that it shows MIN and MAX temperatures.


6. Set the refrigerator temperature. If the refrigerator has a thermostat, set it at 40ºF. If it has a dial with a range of settings, set it to the middle of the range. The next morning, check the temperature and adjust it until it stabilizes at approximately 40ºF.

7. Once the temperature has stabilized, record CURRENT, MIN, and MAX temperatures on the log twice a day. Set the alarm on the thermometer. Do not store vaccine in the refrigerator until the temperature is stable at around 40ºF for 3–5 days.

www.eziz.org