Preparing Refrigerators for Vaccine Storage

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

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

3. You’ll need to set up and get familiar with your data logger before using it to monitor temperatures. Refer to “Data Logger Setup & Use” (IMM-1206) for further instruction. Store your backup device’s buffered probe in the vaccine refrigerator.

4. Attach the digital display to the outside of the refrigerator, either on the door or on the side. CURRENT, MIN, and MAX temperatures must be visible without opening the storage unit door.


6. Set the refrigerator temperature. If the refrigerator has a thermostat, set it at 40°F. 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 40°F.

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