Setting Up Vaccine Storage Units

Organize refrigerators and freezers to facilitate vaccine management and reduce administration errors. Do not store vaccines until storage units have stabilized within their OK ranges for 3-5 days. MMR, MMRV, and Varicella must be stored in the freezer. Plan to store all other VFC vaccines in the refrigerator.

**Sample Refrigerator**

- Clearly label VFC and private vaccines.
- Group vaccines (pediatric, adolescent, adult).
- Label shelf space or baskets to make vaccines easy to find.
- Position vaccines or baskets 2-3 inches away from walls, floor, and other baskets.
- Store vaccines in original packaging with earliest expiration date in front.
- Diluents may be stored next to refrigerated vaccines unless manufacturer states otherwise. Never store diluents in the freezer.
- If necessary, medications or biologics may be stored below vaccines and on a different shelf.

**Sample Chest Freezer**

- Do not block air vents.
- Do not stack baskets on top of each other.
- No vaccines in doors.
- No food or beverages.

**Refrigerator temperatures**

- 36.0°F
- 46.0°F

**Freezer temperatures**

- -58.0°F
- 5.0°F

**VFC Field Rep:**

![Diagram of refrigerator and freezer with labeled contents and temperature ranges]