

SETTING-UP YOUR NEW REFRIGERATOR UNIT

Before placing vaccines in your new unit, follow these simple steps to ensure success:

- Make arrangements in advance to temporarily store vaccines in an alternate VFC unit with VFC calibrated thermometers; with temperature monitoring twice daily; and with stable temperature readings at the target temps (refrigerator: 40°F and freezer: 0°F) until the new unit is approved for vaccine storage.
- Plug your vaccine storage unit directly into the outlets. Never use extension cords or power strips.
- If your unit comes with vegetable bins, remove them from the unit, and fill the space with bottles of water. Do not store vaccines in the vegetable bin space or directly on the floor of the refrigerator.
- Add additional jugs of water to the shelves inside the door and store ice packs in the freezer. This will help maintain a stable, cold temperature when the refrigerator or freezer door is opened frequently or in case of power failure.
- Place calibrated VFC thermometers in the center of each unit: one in the refrigerator and one in the freezer. Contact your regional VFC person (name and phone number on the temperature log) or Health Educator (505-827-2415) to obtain thermometers.
- Aim for a refrigerator unit temperature of 40°F and a freezer unit temperature of 0°F or lower. Adjust the temperature in small increments and continue to monitor until the target temperatures are reached.
- Once temperatures are stable at the target temps and prior to placing vaccines in the unit, record temperatures twice a day for a minimum of 5 working days. Then submit your temperature logs to your regional contact (shown on the bottom of the temperature logs). Obtain approval from that person prior to transferring vaccines to the new units.
- Be sure a DO NOT UNPLUG sticker is posted near the electrical outlet and circuit breaker.

For additional information on vaccine storage and handling and on transferring vaccines safely between locations, please reference the CDC Vaccine Storage & Handling TOOLKIT and the Interim Storage and Handling Guidance. The link to the CDC's website is <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact the VFC Health Educator in Santa Fe at (505) 827-2415.