

Dormitory-Style Units

Link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm>

Small single-door (dormitory-style or bar-style) combined refrigerator-freezer units should not be used for permanent vaccine storage. The freezer compartment in this type of unit is incapable of maintaining temperatures cold enough to store MMRV, varicella, and zoster vaccines. If attempts are made to cool the freezer compartment to the appropriate temperature, the temperature in the refrigerator compartment will fall below the recommended range, potentially freezing the refrigerated vaccines. However, this type of unit may be adequate for temporarily storing **small quantities** of inactivated vaccines and MMR vaccine in the refrigerator compartment (not the freezer compartment) **if** the refrigerator compartment can maintain temperatures at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Make sure not to overstock the unit because this will impede cold air circulation and can result in temperature fluctuations that may expose the vaccines to inappropriate temperatures. Refrigerated vaccines stored in a dormitory-style unit should be returned to the main storage unit at the end of the clinic day.



Dormitory-style units may be used only for small quantities of inactivated vaccines and MMR vaccine.

Never use these units for MMRV, varicella, or zoster vaccines.

Do not place vaccines directly beside or directly below the freezer compartment in a dormitory-style unit, as this may expose vaccines to temperatures below the recommended range. Place cold packs (not frozen packs) or water bottles in this space to provide a temperature buffer. To reduce the risk of exposing vaccine to freezing temperatures, consider using a compact refrigerator without a freezer compartment.