SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH PLAN
Here for you

Resource Guide

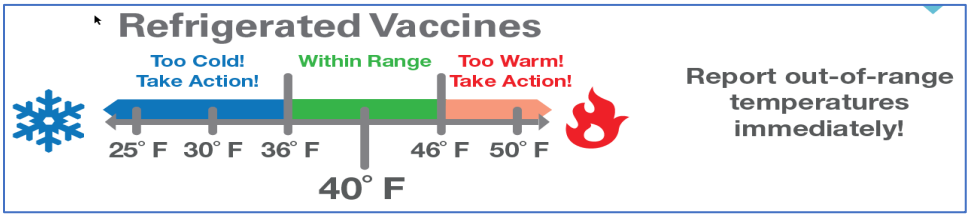
Subject:	Refrigerator Thermometer Temperature
Facility Site Review Source:	Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All Plan Letter 20-006, Site Reviews: Facility Site Review and Medical Record Review or any superseding APL
Relevant Law/Standard:	Center for Disease Control and Prevention / Manufacturers
Agency//Organization Source:	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Agency/Organization URL	https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/index.html

Background:

CDC recommends using purpose-built units designed to either refrigerate or freeze (can be compact, under the counter style or large units), stand-alone household units, and dedicated to storage of biologics.

Note: Do not store any vaccine in a dormitory-style or bar-style combined refrigerator/freezer unit under any circumstances.

Refrigerator temperatures are documented at least once a day (Best practice is twice daily). Site personnel must be able to verbalize the procedure used to promptly respond to OUT OF RANGE TEMPERATURES. Contacting VFC or manufacturer are acceptable procedures.



Vaccines are kept in a refrigerator maintained at 2-8ºC or 36-46ºF, and include, but are not limited to, DTaP, Td, Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, IPV, Pneumococcal, Rotavirus, Hib, Influenza (inactivated and FluMist), MCV, HPV, recombinant Zoster, or any combinations of these listed vaccines.

Purpose:

Proper vaccine storage and handling are important factors in preventing and eradicating many common vaccine preventable diseases. Yet, each year, storage and handling errors result in revaccination of many patients and significant financial loss due to wasted vaccines. Failure to store and handle vaccines properly can reduce vaccine potency, resulting in inadequate immune responses in patients and poor protection against disease. Patients can lose confidence in vaccines and providers if they require revaccination because the vaccines they received may have been compromised.

Resources: (See links or PDF copies in FSR Library)

CDC Vaccine Recommendation and Guidelines of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/storage.html

CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf

Additional Information:

Use the following to determine the appropriate equipment size for your practice:

Choosing the right sized unit

Below are a few handy steps* for determining the ideal refrigerator size for your clinic:

1 Estimate the maximum number of doses of publicly-provided vaccine and privately purchased vaccine that will be in your refrigerator.

Refrigerator:

Add the number of doses *on hand (current inventory)* from your last order form.

Public vaccine _____
Private vaccine +_____
Total doses =_____

Multiply (max inventory) x 1.25
Maximum doses =_____

2 Match your maximum doses with the minimum cubic feet needed to safely store your vaccine.

Max. Doses	Minimum Cubic Ft.
2,000+ doses	may need more than one refrigerator
1000 – 2000	40 cu. ft
900 – 1000	36 cu. ft.
801 - 900	21 - 23 cu. ft
701 - 800	17 - 19.5 cu. ft.
400 – 700	11 - 16.7 cu. ft.
100 - 399	4.9 - 6.1 cu. ft.

3 Using this refrigerator and freezer guide as a reference, search for a storage unit that's properly sized and meets all VFC requirements. Whenever possible, choose biomedical-grade over household style units.

*Thanks to California's **eziz.org** for developing the original sizing guide above.

(Source: AAP Immunization Resources Storage and Handling Series Refrigerators, Freezers, and Vaccine Storage, https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunization_vaccinestoragerf.pdf)