



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

Arizona Immunization Program Office

Required Specifications for Vaccine Refrigerators & Freezers

All refrigerator units must:

- Maintain required vaccine storage temperatures (36°F to 46°F / 2°C to 8°C) year-round.
- Be automatic defrost (frost-free) and free of any frost, ice, water or coolant leaks. Manual defrost (cyclic defrost) refrigerators with visible cooling plates/coiling in the internal back wall are not acceptable.
- Provide enough space to store the largest number of doses expected at one time (including influenza season), allowing for vaccine storage at least 2-3 inches away from walls, floor, and other boxes, and away from cold air vents.
- Be reliable (with a quiet compressor) and has not needed frequent repairs. Replacement should be considered for household refrigerator/freezer combination units over 10 years old.
- Have doors that seal tightly and close properly.
- Have separate temperature controls for refrigerator and freezer combination units.
- Not have convertible features that switch to an all-freezer unit.
- Have a working thermometer placed centrally in the unit. Thermometers must be certified in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).
- Be used for only for vaccine storage. In limited circumstances, and as space allows, other medications may be stored in the same units.

All freezer units must:

- Maintain required vaccine storage temperatures (-58°F to 5°F / -50°C to -15°C) or below year-round.
- Provide enough space to store vaccines along with sufficient frozen cold packs.
- Have an automatic defroster. (Manual defrosters are acceptable only if the office has an alternate place to store vaccines when defrosting the unit.)