

# Vaccine Freezer Setup

Preparing for Vaccine Storage

**1** Put cold packs in areas where vaccines should not be stored, including the freezer door and on the top shelf of the freezer.



Two thermometers are needed to ensure accurate temperatures. Many practices use a digital thermometer as the primary thermometer and a liquid-filled or dial thermometer as the back-up.



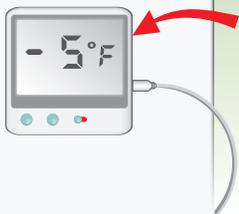
In a stand-alone freezer, place the digital thermometer probe and the back-up thermometer in the center of the freezer, next to the vaccine.



In a combination unit freezer, place the probe of the digital thermometer and the back-up thermometer in the center of the freezer floor.

**3** Attach the display of the digital thermometer to the outside of refrigerator, either on the door or on the side.

Set the temperature modes.



**4** Plug in the freezer. Secure with plug guard/cover. Post "Do Not Unplug" sign.

**WARNING!**  
Do Not Unplug



**5** Set the freezer temperature. If the freezer has a thermostat, set it at -5°F.

If it has a dial with a range of numbers, set it in the middle.

The next morning, check the temperature and adjust it until it stabilizes below 0°F.



**6** Once the temperature has stabilized, start recording temperatures on the temperature log twice a day.

Do not store vaccines in the freezer until the temperature stays below 0°F for 3–5 days.

**F° Freezer Temperature Log**

Staff Initials	1	2	3	4	5
Day of Month					
Time					

Write in temperature if above 5°F. Then take action!

Temperature	5°F	4°F	3°F	2°F	1°F	0°F	-1°F	-2°F	-3°F	-4°F	-5°F
Temperature											