

Storage Units

- Refrigerators **must maintain** temperatures between 36°F and 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
- Freezers **must maintain** temperatures between +5°F and -58°F (-15°C to -50°C).
- Food, beverages (including bottled drinking water), or lab specimens may **not** be stored in the vaccine storage unit.
- Must be plugged directly into wall outlets; **multi-strip outlets should not be used**.
- Keep a calibrated data logger with a Certificate of Traceability and Calibration in each refrigerator and freezer compartment.
- Providers who offer vaccines in Indiana must utilize stand alone units. The use of household combination units is no longer allowed.
- Pharmaceutical grade combination units are allowed since they have separate compressors and can maintain the correct temperatures.

Attention

Dormitory-style refrigerator/freezer units are no longer permitted for vaccine storage at any time. Dormitory-style refers to a small unit that has one exterior door with a small freezer inside the refrigerator. Please note that there are compact, purpose-built storage units for biologics that are not considered to be dormitory-style or bar-style.

Shown to the right: Example of a well maintained refrigerator storage unit with a Celsius reading digital data logger.



Temperature Monitoring Devices

Vaccine providers are required to purchase temperature monitoring devices that can monitor temperatures 24/7 and can be downloaded onto your computer, such as digital data loggers. The Indiana Department of Health requires temperature monitoring devices to have the following characteristics:

- Alarm for out-of-range temperatures
- Display current, minimum and maximum temperatures
- Low battery indicator
- Accuracy of +/- 1° F (0.5° C)
- Stores at least 4,000 readings; device will not write over old data, but stops recording when memory is full
- User programmable logging intervals (or reading rate)
 - Must be programmed to measure and record temperatures at least every 30 minutes
- CDC also requires the use of a detachable, buffered probe.

Certificate of Calibration

Providers must maintain a Certificate of Traceability and Calibration for each data logger (this documentation is included with the data logger upon purchase). Each calibration certificate should include:

- Model/device name or number
- Serial number
- Date of calibration (report or issue date)
- Confirmation that the instrument passed testing (or instrument is in tolerance)
- Recommended uncertainty of +/-0.5° C (+/-1° F) or less

For full details regarding storage and handling of vaccines, please visit <https://www.in.gov/isdh/27938.htm> policies 8-12.