Stand-Alone Refrigerators & Stand-Alone Freezer Units for Vaccine Storage of State-Supplied Vaccines (SSV)

Dorm-Style Vaccine Units
Dorm style units are not allowed for storing SSV vaccines. Dorm-style units are defined as having both a refrigerator and freezer compartment with only one external door. SSV vaccines stored in these units are considered non-viable and must be returned using the OSMOSSIS process.

General Recommendations
• Store vaccines in a stand-alone refrigerator and stand-alone freezer units
• Shop online for a diverse selection of refrigerator/freezer products
• Look for a refrigerator or freezer that is “frost-free”. Ensure unit capacity to store largest inventory (typically inventory held during flu season) without crowding
• Grated shelving is preferable to glass shelving for best air circulation, temperature maintenance
• Leave ample space between the vaccines and unit wall to allow for air circulation
• Stabilize refrigerator temperature: store water bottles in refrigerator door, on the bottom of the unit, and on the top shelf to add thermal mass
• Stabilize freezer temperature: store water bottles in freezer to add thermal mass

Unit Size Use these following estimates with the above recommendations to best determine your practice’s needs.

REFRIGERATOR-ONLY UNIT
Average doses on hand Size estimate
• Less than 400 4.9 to 6.7 cubic feet
• 400-700 11 to 16 cubic feet
• 700-1000 16 cubic feet minimum
• 1000-2000 36 cubic feet or several smaller units
• 2000+ 36 cubic feet or several smaller units or pharmacy grade

FREEZER-ONLY UNIT
Average doses on hand Size estimate
• Less than 200 1.7 cubic feet countertop unit
• 200-500 3.5 cubic feet minimum