



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**DATE:** June 30, 2022

**TO:** Vaccines for Children Providers

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**SUBJECT:** **Standalone Refrigerator and Freezer Requirement 2023**

**Please route to:**

- **Clinical supervisors**
- **Medical directors**
- **Clinic managers**
- **Clinic staff**
- **Pharmacy staff**
- **Vaccine staff**

The Louisiana Immunization Program wishes to inform you of new Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program requirements to ensure proper vaccine storage and handling practices. **Effective July 1, 2023**, the VFC Program will require that, if you use *household* refrigerators and freezers for storing VFC vaccine, the refrigerator and freezer be separate, standalone units. The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) has determined the freezer section of household combination units **are not** capable of reliably maintaining appropriate frozen vaccine storage temperatures.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Louisiana Immunization Program recommend the following for VFC storage units (listed in order of preference):

- Purpose-built or pharmaceutical/medical-grade unit, including doorless and dispensing units
- Standalone refrigerator and freezer units - these units can vary in size from a compact, under-the-counter style to a large, standalone, pharmaceutical-grade storage unit
  - **NOTE:** Some manufacturers offer purpose-built, biologic/pharmaceutical-grade combination refrigerator/freezer units. CDC approves the use of both the refrigerator and freezer sections of these types of units for vaccine storage.
- Combination household refrigerator/freezer unit, using only the refrigerator compartment to store vaccines - a separate standalone freezer must then be used to store frozen vaccines

**Use of the freezer compartment of a household combination unit is not allowed.**

Neither CDC nor the Louisiana Immunization Program endorses a particular brand of refrigerator or freezer. Please refer to the [Louisiana Refrigerator and Freezer Guide](#) located in the VFC/VOMS section on the homepage of [LINKS](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about this new requirement, please contact your Immunization Program Consultant or the Louisiana Immunization program at 504-568-2600.