# Preparing Vaccine Storage Units

**Prepare vaccine refrigerators and freezers to maintain stable temperatures. Stabilize temperatures before storing vaccines. The concepts are identical for both refrigerators and freezers.**
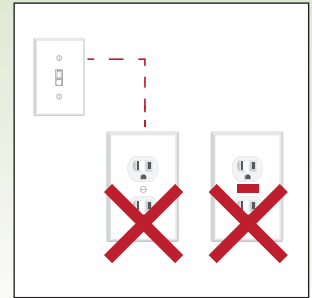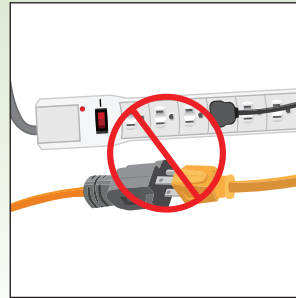
## 1. Protect the power supply.

### DO

- Plug each storage unit into its dedicated wall outlet.
- Secure the plug with a guard or cover and post "Do Not Unplug" signs.
- Label fuses and circuit breakers so the Vaccine Coordinator is alerted if power goes off.



### DO NOT USE

- Multi-outlet power strips or extension cords
- Outlets with GFI circuit switches (they have red reset buttons)
- Outlets that are controlled by wall switches



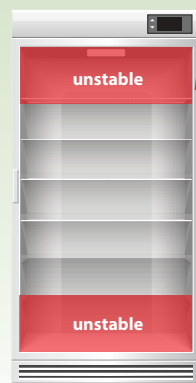## 2. Add plenty of water bottles (refrigerators) or cold packs (freezers only) in unstable areas:

- On the top shelf (don't block air vents)
- On the unit's floor (for household stand-alone units, remove drawers and bins)
- In any door shelves

**Tip:** Add them along the back wall to prevent vaccines from touching the wall.
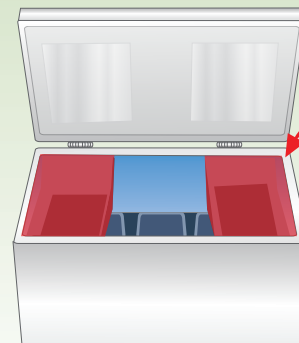
### Refrigerators



Household-grade     Pharmaceutical-grade

### Chest freezer



**www.eziz.org**

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## 3. Set up a data logger for each storage unit.

- Place the buffered probe in the center of the storage unit next to vaccines.
- Place or mount the digital display so temperatures can be read without opening the storage unit door.
- Thread the probe's cable through the side of the door and attach it to the digital display.
- Store your backup device's buffered probe in the vaccine refrigerator.

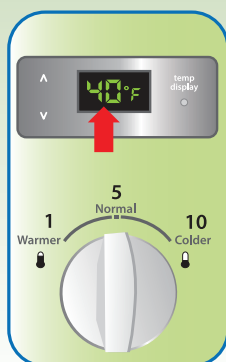## 4. Ensure the data logger is recording.

**Tip:** Some devices might display "REC" or "RECORDING."

40.4 °F

MIN  38.6 °F

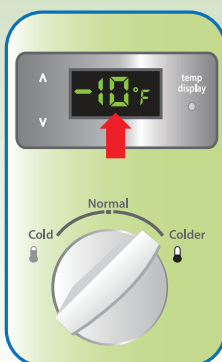MAX  43.8 °F

→ *RECORDING*

START/STOP    CLEAR

## 5. Set storage unit temperatures.

**For refrigerators.**
Set thermostat to 40°F (4°C). If it has a dial, adjust the temperature dial as needed.

40 °F

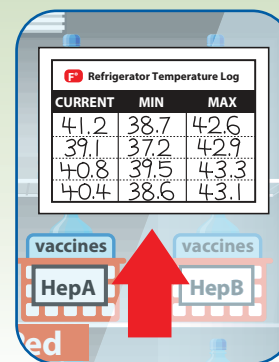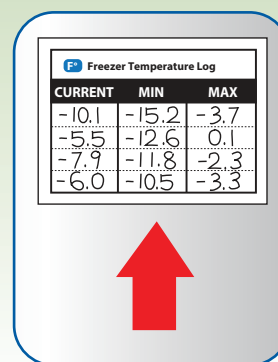temp display

5 Normal
1 Warmer   10 Colder

**For freezers.**
Set thermostat to below 0°F (18°C). If it has a dial, set it to the coldest.

-10 °F

temp display

Normal
Cold   Colder

## 6. Post COVID/VFC temperatures logs.

**Post COVID/VFC temperature logs on the refrigerator and freezer doors.**
Once temperatures have stabilized, record CURRENT, MIN, and MAX temperatures on the logs twice daily.

**Freezer Temperature Log**

| CURRENT | MIN | MAX |
|---------|------|------|
| -10.1 | -15.2 | -3.7 |
| -5.5 | -12.6 | 0.1 |
| -7.9 | -11.8 | -2.3 |
| -6.0 | -10.5 | -3.3 |

**Refrigerator Temperature Log**

| CURRENT | MIN | MAX |
|---------|------|------|
| 41.2 | 38.7 | 42.6 |
| 39.1 | 37.2 | 42.9 |
| 40.8 | 39.5 | 43.3 |
| 40.4 | 38.6 | 43.1 |

vaccines    vaccines
HepA    HepB

## While Waiting for Temperatures to Stabilize

7. **Set up digital data logger.**

8. **Set up storage units using "Setting Up Vaccine Storage Units" guide.**

**Adapted from www.eziz.org**