

STATE OF CONNECTICUT


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Immunization Program

TO: All CVP Providers
FROM: Mick Bolduc 
Vaccine Coordinator-Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP)
DATE: July 8, 2022
SUBJECT: New Frozen Vaccine Storage Requirements

The primary purpose of this communication is to provide you with updated information concerning the storage of frozen vaccines.

CVP Provided Frozen Vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has updated its recommendations on acceptable storage units for frozen vaccines (Varicella, MMRV) in order of preference:

- Purpose-built or pharmaceutical/medical-grade units, including doorless and dispensing units;
- Stand-alone freezer units—these units can vary in size from a compact, under-the-counter style to a large, stand-alone, pharmaceutical-grade storage unit

As of July 1, 2023 use of a household combination unit will no longer be allowed to store frozen vaccines. The rationale behind this change is that the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) has demonstrated that the freezer section of combination units is not capable of reliably maintaining appropriate frozen vaccine storage temperatures. CDC's current version of the "Storage and Handling Tool Kit", and "You Call the Shots" storage and handling segment, highlights similar language: "Household-grade units can be an acceptable alternative to pharmaceutical-grade vaccine storage units. As the name implies, these units are primarily designed and marketed for home use. However, the freezer compartment of this type of unit is not recommended to store vaccines and there may be other areas of the refrigerated compartment that should be avoided as well. If your facility provides frozen vaccine, a separate freezer unit is necessary."

We understand that this new requirement may take some time to implement in each of your offices including planning for the purchase of an appropriate storage unit if necessary. Please make the appropriate preparations to store all CVP frozen vaccines in a **stand-alone freezer or purpose-built or pharmaceutical/medical-grade freezer unit no later than July 1, 2023.**

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 509-7929.



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