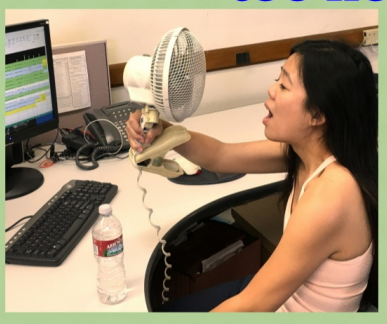
Could you do your job well if your office was too hot or too cold?



Vaccines Need to Be Stored at the Right Temperature to Do Their Job!

Vaccines lose some or all of their strength when exposed to excessive heat and cold, and the damage may be permanent. You can't tell by looking at a vaccine whether it's been damaged or not.

Keeping your vaccines within the right temperature range protects your vaccines -- and your patients.

In the event that vaccines are exposed to out-of-range temperatures, immediately restore proper conditions or move vaccines to a temperature-stable storage unit. Never assume vaccines have been ruined. Instead, keep vaccines at the proper temperature, and contact the manufacturers to verify whether the vaccines can still be used or need to be discarded.

Vaccine Storage & Handling Guidelines

1. **Use the Right Equipment.**

   Avoid using under the counter combination freezer/refrigerator units. These "dormitory style" refrigerators don't maintain stable temperatures.

2. **Maintain Correct Temperatures:**

   35°F - 46°F in Refrigerators

   -58°F to +5°F in Freezers

3. **Monitor and Record Temperatures 2x Daily.**

   Use two digital thermometers, one as your primary and one as a back-up. Make sure they each have a glycol probe and an alarm that lets you know if temperatures go out of range.

4. **Always Contact Vaccine Manufacturers if Your Storage Temperatures Go Out of Range.**

   Vaccine manufacturers can let you know whether your vaccines are still viable.

For a complete list of storage and handling recommendations:

Visit http://sfcdcp.org/izmedicalproviders.html and Review CDC's Storage and Handling Toolkit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/

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