1. Unpack vaccines immediately

- Place the vaccines in trays or containers for proper air flow.
- Put vaccines that are first to expire in front.
- Keep vaccines in original boxes with lids closed to prevent exposure to light.
- Separate and label by vaccine type and public (VFC) or private vaccine.

2. Store vaccines at ideal temperature: 40° F

- Never freeze refrigerated vaccines!
  - Exception: MMR can be stored in refrigerator or freezer

- Refrigerated Vaccines
  - Too Cold! Take Action!
  - Within Range: 25˚ F - 30˚ F - 36˚ F - 46˚ F - 50˚ F
  - Too Warm! Take Action!
  - 40˚ F

- Report out-of-range temperatures immediately!

3. Use vaccine storage best practices

**DO**
- Do make sure the refrigerator door is closed!
- Do replace crisper bins with water bottles to help maintain consistent temperature.
- Do label water bottles “Do Not Drink.”
- Do leave 2 to 3 inches between vaccine containers and refrigerator walls.
- Do post “Do Not Unplug” signs on refrigerator and near electrical outlet.

**DON’T**
- Don’t use dormitory-style refrigerator.
- Don’t use top shelf for vaccine storage.
- Don’t put food or beverages in refrigerator.
- Don’t put vaccines on door shelves or on floor of refrigerator.
- Don’t drink from or remove water bottles.

Distributed by

Visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/SandH](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/SandH) or contact your state health department for more information.
1. Can you find at least 8 things that are wrong with vaccine storage in this refrigerator?

2. When unpacking vaccines, why is it important to put the first-to-expire in the front?
   A. It reduces the risk that an expired vaccine will be given
   B. It saves money by reducing waste
   C. It reduces time spent on returns
   D. All of the above
   E. None of the above—it’s really about organization

3. It is okay to drink from the water bottles as long as you replace them. True/False

4. One of the most common reasons that refrigerators are out of temperature range is:
   A. Power outage
   B. The thermometer is broken
   C. Staff doesn’t shut the refrigerator door
   D. The refrigerator thermostat is not working properly

5. Refrigerated vaccines should be stored between _____ °F and _____ °F, but the ideal temperature is _____ °F.