

Vaccine Storage – Water Bottles in the Vaccine Refrigerator

Storing bottles of water in your refrigerator can help stabilize the temperature

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WHY?

- Water bottles help maintain stable refrigerator temperatures by adding additional cold thermal mass to the refrigerator.
- Water bottles help reduce the speed of temperature changes caused by frequently opening and closing the door and stabilize temperatures longer in the event of a power failure.
- Water bottles prevent vaccines from being stored in areas where there is a greater risk of out-of-range temperatures (such as the top shelf, bottom shelf and door).

HOW?

- Store the water bottles in the crisper area, in the door racks, and against the inside walls and bottom of the refrigerator (see pictures to the right).
- Place water bottles carefully so they cannot dislodge, preventing the door from closing securely or weighing the door down so the seals are not tight.
- Label all water bottles “**DO NOT DRINK**”. The water bottle opening should be secured with tape.

References:

1. CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines, January 2018
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>
2. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Branch, *Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol*. 2010
http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/guide_vaccine_storage.pdf
3. Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)/Health Canada *National Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines for Immunization Providers*. (2015)

