

# Monthly Care of Vaccine Storage Units

A small amount of regular maintenance is necessary to help ensure that vaccine refrigerators and freezers work properly. Follow the three steps below to keep household-style refrigerators and freezers clean.

## 1. Clean the inside of the storage units

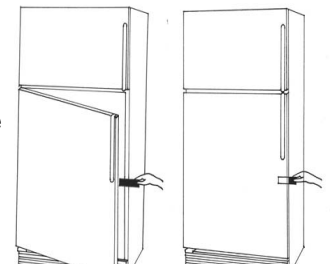
Cleaning the inside of the refrigerator and freezer will help prevent the growth of bacteria and fungus. Do not remove the vaccine from the unit to clean it. Just move the trays of vaccine as you clean. **Do Not Unplug the Unit.**

- a. Clean any spills.
- b. Wipe the inside of the compartment and the shelves with disinfectant or antibacterial wipes. Let it dry.
- c. Put the trays of vaccine back where they were.

## 2. Check the Door Seals

Refrigerators and freezers have flexible door seals that prevent cold air from escaping when doors are closed. If the seal does not seal completely, cold air escapes. This can cause temperatures to fluctuate in the unit. **Do Not Unplug the Unit.**

- a. Examine the seals.
  1. They should not be torn or brittle.
  2. When the unit is closed, there should be no gaps between the seals and the body of the unit.
- b. Verify that the vaccine storage unit door is sealing properly:
  1. Place a thin paper strip between the door seal and frame (see illustration)
  2. Close the door
  3. Pull the paper strip. If it moves easily or falls away by itself, the door and rubber-like seal need to be adjusted.
  4. Check all the way around the door; pay particular attention to the corners.
- c. Alert your supervisor if you suspect a problem with the seals.



Checking the door seals

## 3. Clean the Coils

Examine and clean refrigerator coils of dust and dirt build-up to prevent affecting the efficiency of the unit. This process should only take a few minutes; therefore, it is not necessary to transfer the vaccine to another storage unit as long as the doors remain tightly closed for duration of the cleaning.

- a. Unplug the unit. Use a soft brush, cloth or vacuum cleaner with an attachment hose to remove dust from coils.
- b. After cleaning, plug in the unit and document that the power is restored and the temperature is maintained. Avoid cleaning on Friday; accidental damage to coils could cause problems that might not be detected over the weekend.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clean*	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Seals*	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Coils*	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

\* Initial and date next to the completed items.

**NOTE:** VaxiCool Units: to maintain good operation the condenser must be kept cleaned of dust and dirt, the external electrical connectors should be kept clean, the lid gaskets should be kept clean and free of cuts and rips, and batteries should be kept charged and terminals kept clean of corrosion.

**Questions/Comments:** Contact 1-877-GETVACC, (877-438-8222) or USAMMA/DOC at 301-619-4318, 1197, 4198.