



Vaccine Refrigerator Comparison

	Purpose-built	Domestic	Bar
Designed for	Vaccine Storage	Food/drink	Food/drink
Suitability for vaccine storage	Ideal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not recommended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Possible with modifications in some public health regions • May not meet public health requirements in all regions • Complex to manage to reduce risk of heating/freezing vaccines 	
Requires modification to meet standards	No	Yes	Yes
Cost	Considerably more expensive	Less expensive	Least expensive
Temperature variation tolerance	Narrow	Varied	Very Wide
Air circulation	Constant, fan-forced	Intermittent	Sporadic
Internal temperature distribution	Even	Uneven	Very uneven
Defrost mechanism to prevent freezing	Excellent	Varied	Very poor
Automatic temperature recovery	Rapid	Varied	Delayed
Effects of changes in ambient temperature	Minimal	Varied	Significant

References:

1. Ontario Ministry of Health. Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines. <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-ophs-ref-vaccine-storage-handling-guidelines-2021-en.pdf>
2. York Region Public Health. Vaccine Storage Assessment – A Comparison of the Various Types of Refrigeration Units and Suitability for Vaccine Storage. <https://www.york.ca/media/73476/download>