

It is normal for ice and frost to accumulate inside a freezer, however too much can impact the unit's ability to efficiently maintain temperatures. Auto-defrosting units are strongly encouraged but if yours is manual-defrost, you should routinely assess the build-up and defrost the unit regularly if needed.

What to do with Vaccines during Freezer Defrost:

- **Option 1:** Do not order more frozen vaccine and use up what you already have for frozen inventory. MMR can be moved to the refrigerator during defrost and brought back to freezer once complete.
- **Option 2:** Move frozen vaccine to another approved, senso-monitored unit within your office if you have one, or another freezer unit that is within range and is monitored with a state-issued LogTag data logger.
- **Option 3:** Transfer vaccine to another enrolled provider's office with prior approval from the Immunization Program. This is a one-way transfer, and you will need to reflect this in VIMS by reporting the specific doses as transferred to the new site.

Steps for Defrosting:

1. Communicate to the Immunization Program that you need to defrost your unit.
2. Empty the unit entirely.
 - a. Vaccines removed and stored in another monitored freezer.
 - b. Frozen coolant packs or water bottles should also be removed.
3. Turn off power and unplug unit.
4. Open freezer door and keep propped for entire defrost.
5. Remove any ice that you can by hand, do not chip at ice with sharp objects etc.
6. Place container of warm water in freezer to speed up process (NOT BOILING).
 - a. Recommend a towel at the base to avoid a huge mess.
7. Clean and dry the unit when all the ice has melted.
8. Reconnect to power and reset unit back to proper temperature setting.
9. Communicate to the Immunization Program that the defrost process is complete.
 - a. The freezer will require a re-approval once it's maintained adequate temperatures for 72 hours following the defrost.
10. After the unit approval, you will either re-order more frozen vaccine or bring it back from your other unit.
 - a. If your other unit was monitored by LogTag, you will need to download the data to ensure no excursions before you are able to use the frozen vaccine again.