

Refrigerators Safety Huddle

Refrigerators are found in many areas throughout healthcare facilities and may serve different functions.

- Storage of medical specimens
- Storage of medications, biologics, and vaccines
- Storage of patient food and supplies
- Storage of staff food in breakrooms



Discussion topics

How many refrigerators are at your site or unit?

Who is responsible for cleaning them?
Hint: check Policy PHK0900

How do you know cleaning has been done; is there a checklist? *Hint: check Policy PHK0900*

How often should they be cleaned?
Hint: check the IPAC Equipment Cleaning Manual

Did you know?

IH requires records of all maintenance and cleaning to be retained for at least three years. Use [Refrigerator Cleaning and Maintenance Log](#).

Cleaning a Refrigerator

Remove contents if needed.

- 1. Clean:** Wash interior and exterior surfaces with warm water and mild detergent using a microfibre cloth to remove visible soil.
- 2. Disinfect:** Wipe surfaces with a disinfectant wipe ensuring surfaces remain wet for the recommended contact time.



Resources

- [IPAC Equipment Cleaning and Disinfecting Manual](#)
- [Storage and Monitoring of Refrigerated Medications, Biologics, and Vaccines Policy](#)
- [IH FAQ- Refrigerated Medications Biologics and Vaccines](#)
- [Monitoring Refrigerated Medications, Biologics, & Vaccines Toolkit](#)



Interior Health

Date Developed: May, 2026

For more information visit [Infection Prevention & Control](#)