

From: dph.immunizations@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 9:09 AM

Subject: Action Requested: Your valued input on COVID-19 vaccines



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May 8, 2024

Dear pediatric healthcare providers,

On September 12, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made a recommendation that everyone age 6 months and older receive at least one dose of the updated 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccine. On September 21, 2023, the State of Connecticut made [COVID-19 vaccines available through the Connecticut Vaccine Program \(CVP\) for all children age 18 and younger](#).

As of January 22, 2024, **4.2%** of children living in CT age 6 months through 18 years have received a dose of the updated 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccine. Of children who are patients at a practice that administers COVID-19 vaccine, 5.8% have received at least one dose. **Of children who are patients at a practice that does not administer COVID-19 vaccine, only 2% of patients have received a dose.**

Infants, along with older adults, have the [highest rates of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations](#) (slides 5-10 focused on children). In addition, most children younger than 5 hospitalized for the disease had no underlying medical conditions. Although many factors play into these low COVID-19 vaccination rates among children, access to vaccine is likely among them.

Action Requested: COVID-19 Vaccine Survey

We have developed a short survey to assess providers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices around COVID-19 vaccines. Our aim is to better understand barriers you are experiencing to administering COVID-19 vaccines to children and collect your feedback. Please follow the link below to complete this survey. Our goal is to have **ALL of the clinical staff at the practice** complete the survey; as such, we expect and can accept multiple responses per PIN.

We are asking all providers complete the survey by the end of business Wednesday May 21, 2024. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y3YRBZ9>

For providers who have not yet ordered COVID-19 vaccines, please don't wait another day.

It is time to think of COVID-19 vaccines as routine practice, and we want to make sure you are aware of the following:

- Although everyone aged 6 months and older should receive at least one dose of the updated 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccine, children aged 6 months–4 years need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be up to date. Specific guidance is available here: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#)
- We need children protected now. Since we entered the post-pandemic phase, children have been born who have not experienced high levels of virus circulation and are likely without any protective immunity. It is most important for this youngest eligible age group to get the COVID-19 vaccination series started now since many of them need more than one dose of vaccine to be brought up to date.
- As [communicated previously](#) single dose syringes are now available from Pfizer for ages 12 and older that are shipped and stored at standard refrigerator temperatures between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) until the expiration printed on the carton.

Together, we can help protect children's health by ensuring they are up to date on their COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner