



Immunization Program Provider Spotlight June 2023

Stephanie Denya, Meriden Health Department

Though the immunization records of most young children in Connecticut are complete and easily accessible in CT WiZ, this is not the case for many adults and adolescents. However, if you are or were a resident of Meriden, you may be in luck! Stephanie Denya, Associate Health Director at the Meriden Health Department, has been dedicated to ensuring that patients have easy access to their complete immunization record no matter their age. This effort started with the records of students who were leaving the high school. In Meriden, the school nurses work under the health department and with their help, Stephanie and her team would update student vaccine record in CT WiZ, adding any historical doses that were not listed before the students left. What started out with high school-aged patients soon expanded as Stephanie and her team noticed that there were thousands of records from residents, dating back to the 1940s, that were in their records. Stephanie wanted a way for residents to have quick and efficient access to their record and manually entering the records into CT WiZ using the user interface was the answer.

While this effort is still in process, great strides have been made and the impact is already being felt. Stephanie shared that “the biggest reward is having someone come into the health department that may have graduated from Meriden schools 20 or 30 years ago and we are able to go into CT WiZ and tell them we have their full record and that person can successfully go back to school. We are also able to then fill any gaps in immunizations for them right there at the health department and close the loop for that person.” Though time and resources are restraints, Stephanie is optimistic that with additional staff they can get the records for all residents into CT WiZ in the next few years. She also emphasizes this is a team effort and that everyone – from the state to local health departments to provider offices – need to be involved. “We all need to take time to provide additional education for parents on why it is important their child’s record is in CT WiZ. Providers also need to explain to staff that they are not trying to give them more work, but instead we are doing this because it helps patients in the future and allows them the ability to find their immunization record many years from now.”

Stephanie highly encourages everyone to take on a similar initiative and shares advice for those who want to start. The first piece of advice: start with the current patients. When a patient comes for a visit, take time to update their record in CT WiZ. Additionally, make sure all staff understand the importance of accurate data in the immunization information system. The second piece of advice: utilize the resources from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Stephanie encourages people to access the [CT WiZ trainings](#) frequently and highly recommends utilizing the help offered by the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) team. For the final piece of advice, Stephanie shares “It is all about the clients we serve. I would highly encourage other health departments to start doing this – start taking those charts and going through them and inputting the data into CT WiZ. It is the best thing for your patients.”



From left to right:
Michael Galluzzo, Office assistant, Anna Ryan, RN, Elizabeth Gomez, office assistant, Euvrena Heriveaux, RN Clinic Supervisor,
and Stephanie Denya, MPH, RN, Associate Health Director.