



CVP Update



Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Measles, measles, everywhere! Between December 1, 2023–January 23, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was notified of 23 confirmed U.S. [cases](#) of measles, including seven direct importations of measles by international travelers and two outbreaks with more than five cases each. A significant rise in global measles cases is fueling the importation of cases. Most cases reported have been in individuals who were unvaccinated, even though they were eligible for vaccination.



Measles is a febrile viral illness that is characterized by a rash that begins at the hairline and progresses down the body accompanied by the 3 Cs: cough, coryza (runny nose), and conjunctivitis (red, watery eyes). Patients are considered contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears and the virus can persist in the air for up to 2 hours after a patient has left. Symptoms usually appear 7–14 days after exposure, but it can take up to 21 days to develop symptoms.

Recommendations for Healthcare Professionals:

1. Keep patients up-to-date with 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine. The MMR vaccine is extremely effective at protecting against measles infection.
 - a. Patients 6 months and older who will be traveling internationally can be offered a dose of MMR prior to travel.
2. Consider a measles diagnosis in unvaccinated or under vaccinated patients with clinically consistent symptoms, especially if there is a recent history of travel.
3. Contact the Immunization Program immediately if you suspect a patient may have measles. Measles is a category 1 [reportable disease](#) in Connecticut, which means provider must call immediately upon suspicion.
 - a. Immunization Program staff will provide guidance on proper testing and infection control procedures.



For more information, check out the [CDC measles webpage for healthcare providers](#).

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[Immunization Action Plan \(IAP\)](#)

National Cancer Prevention Month

February is National Cancer Prevention Month. One way to [prevent cancer](#) is through [vaccination](#). The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine can prevent HPV, a risk factor for developing anal, oropharyngeal, cervical and other cancers. The hepatitis B vaccine can help lower liver cancer risk. Make sure you are following the recommended vaccine schedule to ensure your patients are protected!



Data Quality Corner

Reminder: For providers reporting from the Electronic Health Records (EHR), please check your aggregate administered report closely when doing your reconciliations. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to conduct the reconciliation for HL7 clinics in CT WiZ. This will help ensure all immunizations are transmitting from your EHR to CT WiZ.

Reminder: Immunization Information Systems (IIS) **electronic data interfaces help** to ensure patients have **complete, consolidated records in CT WiZ**. Per state law, provider to IIS, IIS to IIS, and federal provider in CT to IIS are types of electronic data exchange. This helps providers report vaccinations and manage their inventory timely as required, and to query patient records before their next vaccination visit to prevent under and over vaccination. This helps DPH ensure accurate analytics. This helps ensure the patient can access their own complete record from the CT WiZ Public Portal. View [CT WiZ Electronic Data Interfaces](#) to see the most up-to-date list of IIS to IIS and federal providers in CT to IIS interfaces that have been established with CT WiZ. CT WiZ continues to establish these secure interfaces.

Provider Reminder/Recall Report

Survey Results

The CT WiZ reminder/recall (R/R) report identifies patients in your clinic who are not up-to-date on recommended vaccines. Since September 2023, the Department of Public Health (DPH) runs monthly R/R reports for CVP providers in CT WiZ for patients who are not up-to-date by 7 and 19 months of age. Providers access their reports in CT WiZ for follow up.

In November–December of 2023, DPH conducted a survey with providers to evaluate the R/R report efforts. Click [here](#) to view the survey results including: survey evaluation findings, why providers should run the R/R report, how the R/R is being used by providers, and R/R tips!

Additionally, as of February 2024, the DPH will start sending a reminder/recall message by text and email to the parents and caregivers of patients who are on your R/R reports. DPH will send these messages each month to parents and caregivers of children who are listed on the monthly R/R reports you receive from DPH. Studies have shown that reminder/recall efforts increase vaccination rates.



Employee Spotlight



Tori Allen, a Public Health Associate from the CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) has been with the Immunization Program since October 2022. Originally from Detroit Michigan, she relocated to Connecticut as a PHAP for a two-year learning program. Tori graduated from Western Michigan University with her MPH in December of 2021 before starting PHAP. She has spent her time working with the Assessment Unit and learning different functions of a state immunization program from quality improvement, provider engagement, analytics, and IIS usage. Most recently, she surveyed Connecticut pediatric providers on their usage and knowledge of Reminder Recall in CT WiZ.

As a PHAP, Tori utilizes a curriculum plan which allows her to work on different projects within the Immunization Program. A good portion of Tori's work for PHAP centers around Immunization for Quality Improvement (IQIP). Tori has truly enjoyed getting to know multiple providers and their staff, her colleagues in different departments, but most importantly how a successful immunization program operates to keep the public safe and informed.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and exploring all that New England and the East Coast has to offer! She spends much of her time with her beloved puppy, Chewby. Chewby is a 6-year-old Shih-tzu that enjoys walks and doggy biscuits. He is excited for the rest of his time in Connecticut!





Provider Spotlight

Stamford Pediatric Associates



Stamford Pediatric Associates was nominated for our provider spotlight by the Stamford area [Immunization Action Plan \(IAP\)](#) team due to their dedication to providing best-practices in immunizations.

Stamford Pediatric Associates was incorporated in 1971. It was one of the first pediatric practices in Fairfield County. The practice has office locations in Stamford and Darien. Over the years they have been privileged to work with many outstanding physicians. As these physicians have retired or moved on, they have sought to continue their tradition of excellence. The legacy of the practice continues to attract extremely high caliber and dedicated physicians.

“We are very proud to be known for providing high quality care to our patients.”

The team currently consists of nine board Certified pediatricians. The practice provides well visits or annual checkups as well as sick visits. Becoming a parent for the first time can be overwhelming and frightening. Parents can have many questions. Stamford Pediatric Associates has proven time and time again they are there for parents by providing 24/7 on-call services. The practice takes a strong stance on vaccination and routinely vaccinates children in accordance with the ACIP vaccine schedule. They give thousands of vaccines each year. They understand many parents will have questions, and may even be vaccine hesitant at times, but they always make themselves available to address any concerns and share vaccine related education. They keep an [updated website](#) with vaccine related educational information.

“The doctors at Stamford Pediatric Associates strongly believe in immunizations. We never want to experience a child dying or becoming permanently disabled from a vaccine preventable disease. Stamford Pediatrics strongly recommends following the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control.”

Stamford Pediatric Associates is a patient-centered medical home. In a patient centered medical home, the patient and their needs come first. The practice understands the importance of patient satisfaction and transparency. They complete yearly satisfaction surveys, share results, and take input from patients on how they can continue to provide amazing patient-centered care. “We are very proud to be known for providing high quality care to our patients.”

