

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

ORDER

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont (the Governor) declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak caused by the SARS-COV-2 virus in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on several occasions since March 10, 2020, acting within his authority pursuant to Sections 19a-131 and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as Special Acts 21-2, 21-4, and 21-5 of the General Assembly, and in response to the continued need to respond adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor renewed the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, the Governor issued various executive orders to protect public health, limit transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (the "COVID-19 Orders"); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a grave threat to public health and safety and civil preparedness in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, to receive COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies from the State of Connecticut, vaccination providers are required to enroll in the federal COVID-19 Vaccination Program, coordinated through the Department of Public Health's ("DPH") Immunization Program, by signing and agreeing to conditions in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement (the "Agreement"); and



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WHEREAS, one of the conditions in the Agreement is that vaccination providers report certain data elements required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”) for each dose of COVID-19 vaccine and adjuvant, if applicable, administered, to the relevant state, local, or territorial public health authority within twenty-four (24) hours of administering such vaccine dose and adjuvant, if applicable, and

WHEREAS, Public Act No. 21-2, Section 145 - June Special Session provides that DPH shall provide to any person who has received a COVID-19 vaccination, or, if such person is a minor child, such person's parent or guardian, information that was provided by a COVID-19 vaccination provider to the department regarding such person's COVID-19 vaccination status upon request by such person, parent or guardian; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to allow for the use of an additional dose in certain immunocompromised individuals, specifically, solid organ transplant recipients or those who are diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise, and

WHEREAS, going forward, health care providers providing such additional vaccine dose to such immunocompromised individuals, or providing any boosters doses of vaccine if required in the future, or others requiring the vaccine immunization information of certain individuals for other relevant purposes, will require the ability to accurately authenticate the recipient’s vaccine history, including the type of vaccine administered, date of administration, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of reducing the spread of COVID-19 and to increase access to and the provision of COVID-19 vaccines, on August 19, 2021, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 13C, modifying Section 19a-7h of the General Statutes to authorize the Commissioner of Public Health (Commissioner) to disclose information reported to the Department of Public Health (Department) regarding a COVID-19 vaccine recipient’s immunization information, to (1) the vaccine recipient’s health care provider; (2) each school nurse at a public or private school in any town, city or school district; and (3) local health directors and other public health authorities to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 13C further authorizes the Commissioner to issue policies and procedures necessary to administer the disclosure of COVID-19 immunization information including but not limited to the specific information to be disclosed; the means and timing of such disclosures; and the means by which COVID-19 immunization information is disclosed to authorized recipients while utilizing existing Department data systems and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Executive Order No. 13C, and in response to the ongoing public health crisis arising out of COVID-19, for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies, unless sooner modified or terminated by me by a future Order, or the Governor’s earlier repeal or modification of Executive Order No. 13C, or

termination of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies, **I hereby order, effectively immediately**, that:

1. The Department shall provide access to a COVID-19 vaccine recipient's immunization information (Records) to his or her: (1) health care provider; (2) school nurse at a public or private school in any town, city or school district; and (3) local health directors and other public health authorities to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts within their jurisdictions;
2. Such Records disclosed to a COVID-19 vaccine recipient, or if such person is a minor child, such person's parent or guardian, seeking their own vaccination data through a secure, web-based electronic portal shall include, but not be limited to, the vaccine recipient's name, date of birth, type of vaccine administered, and the date or dates the vaccine was administered;
3. Health care providers, school nurses, local health directors and COVID-19 vaccine provider organizations must comply with all requirements for access to the childhood immunization registry to have access to Records under this Order.
 - a. Access to Records by Health care providers and COVID-19 vaccine provider organizations under this Order shall be the disclosure of the same immunization data regarding the COVID-19 vaccine recipient as provided to health care providers in the childhood immunization registry and shall be solely for the purpose of clinical decision-making regarding a patient.
 - b. School nurses' access to Records under this Order shall be the same immunization data regarding the COVID-19 vaccine recipient as provided to school nurses in the childhood immunization registry.
 - c. Local health director's access to Records under this Order shall be the same immunization data regarding the COVID-19 vaccine recipient as provided to local health directors in the childhood immunization registry.
 - d. Public health authorities access to Records under this Order shall be determined in the discretion of the Commissioner based upon the request and demonstrated need for information subject to the requirement that the disclosure supports COVID-19 vaccination efforts within their jurisdictions.
4. The Department shall provide such Records to authorized recipients by a secure, web-based interface or electronic query, or by other such method determined by the commissioner to assure that the report is being made to an authorized recipient. All required instructions for access shall be posted on the Department's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/CONNECTICUT-IMMUNIZATION-PROGRAM>.
5. For purposes of this Order:
 - a. "Health care provider" means: (1) physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants licensed by the Department of Public Health and (2) any health care organization that is providing COVID-19 vaccine under a

Center for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccination Program
Provider Agreement or an officer, employee or agent thereof acting in the course
and scope of his or her employment.

b. “Authorized recipient” means those persons and organizations identified in
sections 1 and 2 of this Order.

Ordered this 19th day of August 2021



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