

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

**TO:** Connecticut Hospital Leaders  
**FROM:** Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner  
**DATE:** October 13, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Vaccination of Healthcare Workers

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deidre S. Gifford".

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is closely monitoring progress toward development of a vaccine for COVID-19. We are actively engaged in planning efforts to ensure we will be ready to distribute a safe and effective vaccine as soon as the time comes. Protecting frontline healthcare workers is of vital importance to all of us in our vaccination planning efforts.

The purpose of this document is to update you on COVID-19 vaccine planning in the state and to plan for the role that your hospitals will play in vaccinating hospital personnel and other groups that are prioritized for COVID-19. **Once you have read this communication, please complete the survey available at the link on the next page.** We urge you to complete this survey now, so that you will be positioned to vaccinate your staff when you are ready to do so—planning may take some time so you won't want to wait.

COVID-19 vaccination will take a phased approach. In phase 1, which may begin as early as November 2020, doses will be very limited, and vaccination will be characterized by highly targeted administration to critical workforce and high-risk individuals. During phase 2, a large number of doses will become available and broad administration will be required to achieve population-level immunity. As you know, multiple vaccines are in development. See attached *COVID-19 Vaccination Scenarios For Jurisdictional Planning* for more information, including shipment details, on-site storage requirements, and ordering and administration information for the early vaccine candidates. It is important to note that although one of these vaccines will require storage at ultra-cold temperatures (~minus 80°C), the vaccine can be stored in the original shipping container containing dry ice for up to 10 days; vaccinating institutions will not be expected to buy ultra-low temperature storage units. High vaccination throughput will be required to utilize the ultra-cold vaccine effectively. All vaccines will come with supply kits (e.g. needles, syringes, alcohol pads, limited PPE, vaccine cards). It is likely that 2 doses of the same vaccine product will be required. All vaccines will be supplied by the federal government at no cost and will not be available for private purchase. Insurance reimbursement for administration costs are under consideration by the federal government.

While the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has not yet issued guidance on which groups will be prioritized in phase 1, CT DPH will allocate vaccine based on ACIP guidance

and in accordance with CT's vaccine prioritization strategy, which we will be working with you to develop. Because of the minimum dose order, vaccine administration will need to be centralized. For this reason, we are asking you to consider whether your institution could assist with vaccination of other health care personnel in your community.

Institutions that intend to administer COVID-19 vaccines will be required to enroll in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP). Federal requirements of the program are enumerated in the attached *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 Provider Agreement*. We plan to email the points of contact identified in the survey with information about how to enroll in the CoVP.

**[Please click here to complete the survey](#). We ask that only one survey be submitted per hospital (i.e. per physical location). Please complete the survey by Friday October 23, 2020.**

Now is the time to plan for COVID-19 vaccination, if you have not already done so. Plans should incorporate infection prevention methods that would be necessary to administer vaccine during active community transmission of COVID-19. Strategies and guidance as well as a COVID-19 Vaccine Providers page are available on the [Immunization Program web site](#).

Attachments (provided for informational and planning purposes):

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 Provider Agreement
- COVID-19 Vaccination Scenarios For Jurisdictional Planning