

# CVP Update

## COVID-19 Vaccines for 6mo-4 years Update



Moderna has completed an emergency use authorization (EUA) submission and Pfizer-N-Biotech is expected to complete its EUA submission to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shortly for children ages 6 months through 4 years. FDA's advisory group is tentatively scheduled to discuss both Moderna and Pfizer's EUA requests at its June 15th meeting. If the FDA grants an EUA, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will meet within a few days to issue a recommendation.

The CDC has published a new [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children webpage](#) that includes clinical, operational, and educational resources to aid clinicians. Providers are encouraged to the review the Pediatric COVID-19 Operational Planning Guide, which details key facts and assumptions regarding this youngest vaccine rollout.

**What can CVP providers do now?** Providers should take the time to begin their own plans to recommend and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines to their patients. Multiple studies have indicated that parents and guardians of children in this age group prefer to be vaccinated at their provider office. That is why we are asking that all providers who see young pediatric patients carry COVID-19 vaccine in their offices, continue to make a strong provider recommendation, and have conversations with parents and patients to increase vaccine confidence.

Providers should begin messaging parents/guardians of children 6 months – 4 years right now! This messaging should include:

- A strong provider recommendation; resources can be found [here](#).
- Whether your office is planning to administer COVID-19 vaccine for this new age group
- If you aren't planning on administering COVID-19 vaccine, information on where your patients can go to receive vaccine. The DPH van clinics will be providing pediatric vaccines and the schedule can be found [here](#). Please note, even if you do not plan on providing COVID-19 vaccine in your office, this does not preclude you from making a strong recommendation!

**CVP providers not enrolled in the COVID-19 vaccine program should consider enrolling and/or completing their enrollment in preparation of the young pediatric rollout.** There are several important steps that are required should your clinic wish to administer COVID-19 vaccines to your patients. The steps are laid out on our [COVID-19 vaccine providers web site](#) numbered steps one through six. Please review the page and follow the steps. We encourage all interested CVP participating practices to enroll.



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



Our Immunization Program is updating the design of our webpages with a new look and feel (more user friendly), *coming soon!*

If you bookmarked links, they will be redirected.

**New!**

## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Each day, Connecticut providers and practices are going above and beyond to protect the health of their patients, improve equitable access to care, and promote and ensure an immunized population. Their hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed by our team, which is why we will be highlighting providers and practices in our new Provider/Practice Spotlight, *coming August 2022*. The Spotlight is meant to bring to light the amazing work our providers are doing, including unique quality improvement initiatives, exemplary storage and handling practices, special staff training programs, and many more topics. Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis from Immunization Program staff and Immunization Action Plan (IAP) partners. Providers and practices selected for the Spotlight will be interviewed and will have an article highlighting their outstanding work in future copies of this newsletter. Make sure to check out our first Spotlight in the August 2022 update! For more information about this initiative, please contact Natalie Anderson at [natalie.anderson@ct.gov](mailto:natalie.anderson@ct.gov).

### Data Quality Corner



#### [Help Kids' Get Caught Up on Recommended Vaccines](#)

COVID-19 disrupted in-person learning and routine well-child visits for

many children over the last two years. As a result, too many children have fallen behind on receiving recommended vaccines. CDC's public sector vaccine ordering data show a 14% drop in 2020-2021 compared to 2019, and measles vaccine is down by more than 20%.

Kids need to get caught up now so that they are protected as they go to in-person learning and summer camps.

- Providers can identify children who have missed doses and contact their families to schedule appointments.
  - Click [here for CT WiZ Training](#) to run Reminder/Recall reports (updated slides)
- Providers can let families know what precautions are in place for safe delivery of in-person services.
  - Click [here for a Toolkit for Providers](#)



#### **CT WiZ Recognized at AIRA Conference!**

In April, Connecticut's Immunization Information System (IIS), CT WiZ, was nationally recognized at the [American Immunization Registry Association \(AIRA\)](#) National Meeting.

Connecticut received three awards for our work to ensure interoperability, access and clinical decision support for the IIS community and for our efforts to ensure data quality in CT WiZ.

***DPH wants to thank all our providers for your continued efforts to help us be recognized as a "Dream Team" in the IIS community.***



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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### ***Mick Bolduc, Vaccine Coordinator***



Mick began at DPH in 1990 after working for three years in local television. He has been with the Immunization Program for all 31 years at DPH and has been the vaccine coordinator since 1993. He has helped oversee the expansion of the universal vaccine program which in recent years has added influenza, rotavirus, meningococcal, and hepatitis A vaccines for all children statewide and also serves as the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) coordinator for the program. Mick lives in South Windsor with his wife Im and now that the pandemic related travel restrictions have been lifted is looking forward to returning to visit his wife's home country of Thailand later this year. Mick is an avid golfer and when not golfing loves to spend his free time with his family (he is the youngest of six) and friends.

Mick's favorite part of the job is working with the state's providers and school nurses to ensure that they have the necessary resources to keep children on schedule and maintain Connecticut's high immunization coverage rates.

## **Connecticut Department of Public Health Releases School Vaccination Data for the 2020-21 School Year**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has posted [a review of school immunization survey data for the 2020-2021 school year.](#) The data highlight uptake of school required vaccines for children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and seventh grade as reported by schools, as well as the percentage of students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 with religious or medical vaccination exemptions.

Noteworthy items from the 2020–2021 school immunization survey include:

- The percentage of Connecticut kindergarten students out of compliance for the MMR vaccine was 2.1 percent, up from an eight-year average of 1.2 percent, and an increase of 0.8 percent from the previous year (2019–2020).
- It's also important to note that due to COVID-19, DPH officials heard firsthand from physicians and school nurses that there were challenges in scheduling in-person medical appointments as well as reluctance on some parents' part with making in-person appointments for their child's vaccines. The State Department of Education [issued guidance](#) to schools encouraging flexibility in obtaining vaccination records due to reported difficulties in scheduling appointments.
- The percentage of kindergarten students with a religious exemption remained the same compared to the previous year at 2.3 percent. The national average during 2020–21 for non-medical exemptions is 2.2 percent.
- Compared to the previous year, the percentage of kindergarten students who received required vaccines decreased slightly for each vaccine by an average of 0.7 percent.

See the full press release [here](#).

See CDC's MMWR on Vaccination Coverage and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten [here](#).

If you would like to unsubscribe from these communications, please send an email to [Dph.immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:Dph.immunizations@ct.gov) with the subject line "Unsubscribe from CVP Program communications".