

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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TO: CT Vaccine Program (CVP) Participants

FROM: Matthew Carter, MD, MPH Kathy Kudish, DVM, MSPH *Kathy Kudish*
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Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH)

DATE: September 9, 2020

SUBJECT: CVP Provider Interest in Administering COVID-19 Vaccine

The purpose of this communication is to gauge your interest in administering COVID-19 vaccine to your patients. **We are asking you to take a short survey to indicate your intent; please click on the link on the next page to complete the survey. Pre-registration is non-binding.**

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 the staff and residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities. Most community-based providers will not have an active role during this phase. During phase 2, a large number of doses will become available and broad administration will be required to achieve population level immunity. It is at this stage that community-based providers will play a key role. As we are sure you are aware, there are multiple candidate vaccines currently in clinical trials so it is not yet known which vaccine(s) will be approved.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently shared the following COVID-19 vaccine planning assumptions:

- Two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, separated by ≥21 or >28 days, will be needed for some vaccine candidates; both doses will need to be with the same product.
- COVID-19 vaccine providers must sign a Federal COVID-19 vaccination agreement and enroll with their state immunization program to receive vaccine. This is a separate agreement from the one you have signed to enroll in the CVP.
- Enrolled vaccination providers will order and receive COVID-19 vaccine from their state immunization program. Vaccine will not be available for purchase during phases 1 and 2.
- COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies (including needles and syringes for vaccine reconstitution and administration and limited masks and face shields) will be distributed **at no cost** to enrolled COVID-19 vaccination providers.
- Insurance reimbursement for vaccine and administration costs are under consideration.



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- Some vaccine candidates require ultra-low cold (ULC) chain. However, purchase of storage devices for ULC storage is not recommended at this time.
- Dose level accountability and near-real-time reporting of doses administered by providers is an expectation of the federal government. In CT, this will be achieved through CT WiZ, Connecticut's web-based Immunization Information System. Providers may report either via an electronic interface (bi-directional data exchange) or by data entry into the CT WiZ user interface.

If you signed multiple CVP Provider Agreements (i.e. have been assigned multiple PINs) you will have the opportunity to provide information for each PIN. The survey will ask you for the name of the person you will designate as a COVID-19 vaccine planning point of contact. If you have multiple PINs you may give multiple names or one name for all clinics.

Please complete the survey at the following link by Friday September 25:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVPCOVIDVAX>

Now is the time to plan for administering COVID-19 vaccine at your practice, if you have not already done so. Plans should incorporate infection prevention methods that would be necessary to dispense vaccine during active community transmission of COVID-19. Strategies and guidance are available on the [Immunization Program web site](#). A COVID-19 Vaccine Providers page is being set up as a link from our main page to provide additional guidance and archive communications.

Many challenges lie ahead, and much remains uncertain. CT DPH looks forward to the opportunity to partner with you on this vitally important COVID-19 vaccine response. Once you have answered the survey and designated a point of contact, the Immunization Program can keep you informed about what you will need to do and how the situation evolves. If you have any questions about this process please contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929 or email dph.immunizations@ct.gov.