



# CVP Update



## National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)



This annual observance in August highlights the efforts of healthcare professionals to protect patients of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time vaccination. During NIAM, Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) encourages you to ensure your patients are up to date on recommended vaccines. Research has consistently shown that healthcare professionals are the most trusted source of vaccine information for parents and patients.

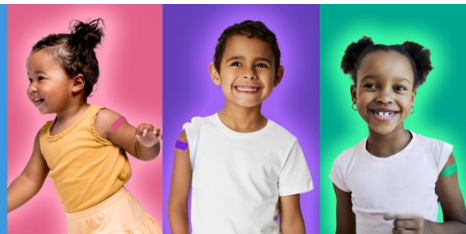
Use NIAM as an opportunity to access Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [educational resources](#) like the [#HowIRecommend Video Series](#), which offers simple and practical guidance for having successful vaccine conversations with parents and patients. These short videos demonstrate how to make effective vaccine recommendations, address common vaccine questions, and take a team-based approach to vaccination. View the [NIAM events](#) happening across Connecticut.

The Public Health Foundation and CDC have developed a [digital communication toolkit](#) with messages and graphics tailored to your role as a healthcare professional emphasizing the importance of vaccination for your patients. Show your practice's support of vaccination throughout the month by using this content on your website and on social media. During NIAM and beyond, you can engage with CDC and other healthcare professionals on social media by using #ivax2protect in your posts.

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## LET'S GET KIDS CAUGHT UP



As children begin to have play dates and return to school, camp and day care, routine childhood

vaccinations are critical to keeping them healthy. Many children [fell behind](#) on receiving routine vaccinations during COVID-19. CDC's public sector vaccine ordering data show a 14% drop in 2020-2021 compared to 2019 and measles vaccine ordering is down by more than 20%. Children need to get caught up now; so, they are protected as they go back to in-person learning and summer camps. Healthcare providers can identify families whose children have missed doses and contact them to schedule appointments. Providers can also let families know what precautions are in place for safe delivery of in-person services.

**With your help, we can ensure that children get caught up!** You may find it useful to keep the link to the CDC childhood [vaccine catch-up schedule](#) handy. Please help get the word out about the importance of catching up on routine childhood vaccinations, using [new resources](#) available for immunization partners and healthcare providers.

### Follow us on Social Media!



**Facebook:**  
[@CTPublicHealth](#)



**Twitter:**  
[@CTDPH](#)

### Contact Us:

**860-509-7929**

or click [here](#)

For a current list of IAP contacts, websites, and social media pages visit [Immunization Action Plan \(IAP\)](#)

## Influenza Vaccinations Will Be Available Soon!

It is not currently known how flu activity will be affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; however, CDC is preparing for the virus that causes COVID-19 and seasonal flu viruses to spread during the upcoming season, along with other respiratory viruses. [COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines](#) may be administered on the same day, as well as any interval without respect to timing.



With little flu virus activity last season, young children will have lower immunity to flu. They may not have been previously vaccinated or had natural exposure. As children return to school and have increased exposures, there could be a higher number flu illnesses this year.

Flu illness is more dangerous than the common cold for children.

- Each year, millions of children get sick with seasonal flu; thousands are hospitalized and some die from flu.
- Children commonly need medical care because of flu, especially children younger than 5 years old.
- Children with certain chronic health conditions are at higher risk of developing serious flu complications.
- During 2019–2020, nearly 200 children in the United States died from flu. About 80% of those children were not vaccinated against flu. A flu vaccine is the best way to protect them.

In past flu seasons, 9 out of 10 adults hospitalized with flu have at least one reported underlying medical condition. People from racial and ethnic minority groups, including non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino people, are at higher risk for developing serious flu complications, including being hospitalized. Getting a flu shot can also help protect pregnant women and their babies from flu for several months after birth when the baby is too young to get vaccinated.

**Recommend a flu shot to your patients as soon as they're available this year!**



### Meet the DPH Immunization Program Team!

For our first employee spotlight, meet Kathy Kudish!

Kathy Kudish is the Immunization Program Manager at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. She grew up in Simsbury, CT and got her Bachelor's degree at the University of CT. She is also a small animal veterinarian and practiced emergency medicine. She was an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before joining the Immunization Program in 2006. She lives

with her husband and teenaged twins as well as a host of beloved pets. In her spare time, she likes to read, play soccer, and hike and search for reptiles and amphibians with her son.

Kathy is pictured participating in polio eradication in Bangladesh in 2005. It is common for people to greet the WHO staff with their vaccination cards in hand!

## Enroll in CoVP to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines!

Your patients will be in the office getting routine immunizations for back to school. By enrolling as a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider (CoVP) you can offer them the COVID-19 vaccine while they're getting other vaccines! As a reminder, [COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines](#) may be administered on the same day,

**167 CVP providers have already been approved to be a COVID vaccine providers!!**

**Visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Providers](#) for the **Six Steps** to Enroll**

## Non-Medical and Medical Vaccination Exemptions

Do you have [questions about the new law](#) Governor Lamont signed on April, 28, 2021: Public Act 21-6, “An Act Concerning Immunizations,” which updates Connecticut’s immunization requirements for students attending pre-K - 12 schools, day care programs, and institutions of higher education by removing exemptions that are not medical?

In very general terms, this law broadens the scope of students required to comply with statutory immunization requirements, in order to keep students, school staff and families safe. By way of background, Connecticut law requires that school-age children receive certain mandatory vaccinations prior to enrolling in school. The law previously contained an exemption from this requirement for students who, through a parent or guardian, determined that the immunizations were contrary to their religious beliefs. The new law removed this exemption, effective April 28, 2021, with limited exceptions.

[Public Act 21-6](#) retains the prior law’s medical exemption from vaccination requirements for students and adds a requirement that the Department of Public Health develop a particular form for use by medical professionals stating why, in their opinion, a required vaccination is medically contraindicated. The form will include definitions of the terms contraindications and precautions, and a list of contraindications and precautions recognized by the CDC for each required vaccine from which a Physician, PA, or APRN can select on behalf of such person. The medical professional may at his or her discretion record a medical condition not recognized by the CDC.

## Patient Education Materials Ordering Update: NEW COVID-19 materials available!

We have a new stock of educational materials available for you to order from us free of charge, including new COVID-19 educational materials!

The new ordering forms are posted on our [website](#) under “Patient Education”.

As a reminder, there is a new process for submitting your order:

- Download and complete the appropriate order form.
- Go to our [helpdesk](#) website to submit a ticket.
- Select “Immunizations Program”, then “Immunization Educational Materials Orders”, and then either “Educational Materials Order” or “Birthing Hospital Materials Order”.
- Click the “Here” button to be prompted further to submit a ticket.
- Enter your information and upload your completed order form.

## Save the Date!

Adult Influenza [Conference](#) will be September 8, 2021 at 9:00am as a virtual meeting! Complete your [registration](#) today!

## CT COVID-19 Webpages:

- DPH Mobile [Van Clinics](#)
- Complete this [form](#) to request a van
- Connecticut’s Vaccine [Locator Portal](#)
- CT DPH COVID-19 Vaccination [FAQs](#)
- Latest COVID-19 [Guidance](#)

The [Vaccinate Your Family](#) website is now available in Spanish!

### Información en Español

Esta página se actualiza periódicamente. Visite con frecuencia.



**Preguntas y respuestas sobre vacunas contra COVID-19**



**Encuentre la vacuna contra COVID-19 cerca de usted**



**Preguntas sobre las vacunas**  
Encuentre más información sobre los efectos secundarios, la seguridad y cómo funcionan.



**Enfermedades prevenibles por la vacunación**