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Subject: CVP Update Pfizer expanded age

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) Participants,

This correspondence is to provide you with an update on the anticipated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine age expansion and to remind you that you are invited to enroll as a COVID-19 vaccine provider in Connecticut.

On May 12 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet to vote on a Pfizer vaccine recommendation for ages 12 through 15, which will allow the vaccine to be used for ages 12 and up. The [draft agenda](#) is posted and the link to the live webcast is [here](#).

We would like to encourage all pediatricians in the State of Connecticut to play an active role in enabling access for their patients to COVID-19 vaccines: this includes counseling children and families; conducting active outreach to families to discuss vaccination; and serving as a COVID-19 vaccine provider yourselves.

Information about enrolling as a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider

For providers who want to serve as COVID-19 Vaccine Providers, DPH is here to support you through the enrollment and ordering process and answer your questions.

- Please start by reviewing the invitation [letter](#) sent out on April 22 which explains the steps.
- If you have questions, please reach out by email Dph.immunizations@ct.gov or call the main Immunization Program line at (860) 509-7929.
- To those that have begun the process, please don't lose momentum! You can expect Immunization Program staff to be reaching out to the contact named in your pre-registration survey to offer assistance and answer any questions you may have that may be slowing you down.
- Currently the Immunization Program hosts weekly COVID-19 Program (CoVP) Update Calls for providers Wednesdays at 9am. **You do not need to be enrolled to join.** [Click here to join the meeting](#) (click the link to join the live session) **or call in (audio only) +1 860-840-2075, 728392236#** Phone Conference ID: 728 392 236#
- We send out communications at least weekly to CoVP Providers. You can sign yourself up to receive these [here](#). You can also review past communications [here](#).

Information for all providers

Whether you plan to start vaccinating your patients against COVID-19 soon or not, you will likely be getting lots of questions from parents about where they can access vaccines for their children.

- The [CT Vaccine Portal](#) allows patients to search for a vaccine provider nearest to them. Once results are returned, the locations display what types of vaccines are available at the locations listed, including Pfizer vaccines.

- Towns and school districts are planning some school-sponsored vaccination clinics. Parents can expect communications from participating school districts, or can reach out to theirs to inquire about available school sponsored clinics.
- While COVID-19 vaccination would present an excellent opportunity to catch children up on all overdue vaccines in one visit, the [ACIP COVID-19 vaccine clinical considerations](#) still recommend spacing of 14 days prior to and following any other vaccines, where the benefits of vaccination are deemed to outweigh the potential unknown risks of vaccine coadministration. Should this change we will share this information with all CoVP Providers. Even though co-administration is not recommended at this time, we encourage you to recall your patients who are coming due or overdue for vaccines as soon as possible. No additional age expansion for children younger than age 12 years of age is expected prior to the fall of 2021.

Logistics and Planning for Pfizer Vaccine

- As a reminder, Pfizer vaccine is currently direct-shipped from the manufacturer and is available only in a minimum order size of 1,170 doses; it can only be stored for up to 14 days at standard freezer temperatures. Pfizer will be shipping some vaccine in smaller quantities in late May-early June, when the minimum dose order will decrease to 450 doses (but for only about 25% of total inventory).
- We are looking to bring on as many providers as possible to vaccinate patients age 12 and older **as soon as is feasible** for those that can manage to use Pfizer vaccine before doses expire, or potentially partner with another CoVP enrolled provider to use a “hub and spoke” model under a [redistribution agreement](#).
- The Connecticut Immunization Program is currently working to establish a way for smaller volumes of Pfizer to be distributed to primary care practices in Connecticut to better enable provider offices to use this vaccine. More information about this will be coming soon. **We encourage you to enroll now in anticipation of being able to order smaller quantities in the near future.**
- We aim to deliver vaccines to practices that cannot manage the larger order quantities direct-shipped from Pfizer by the time they are needed to vaccinate patients younger than 12 years, with the assumption that children age 6 months and older may become eligible this fall.

Thank you for everything you are doing to ensure access to vaccines for children across the Connecticut. We look forward to working with you on this next phase of the COVID-19 vaccine response.

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