

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

June 1, 2021

Subject: Pediatricians' Role in the COVID Vaccine Roll-out

Dear Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) Participants,

As you may be aware, it is likely that a COVID-19 vaccine will be recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for children younger than 12 years of age, possibly as early as the fall. If you have not yet enrolled in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) to vaccinate your patients, we encourage you to do so now so that you can be ready to administer vaccine once a broader set of children are eligible.

You are the most trusted resource of health information for your patients and their parents or caregivers. Your strong recommendation to get a COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most important factors in their decision to accept vaccination. Additionally, parents and adolescents have cited that they are most comfortable receiving COVID-19 vaccine from their regular healthcare provider ([CDC/Iowa survey of parents and adolescents presented at ACIP](#)).

In addition, per the recommendations of the [ACIP](#) and [AAP](#), COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing, including simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration within 14 days. This means that children who have fallen behind on recommended vaccines can be caught up in fewer visits. All of us want our kids back in school safely, and that includes catch up on vaccines missed over the last year.

Now is the time for proactive patient outreach. Send messages and reminders through your patient communication channels to get those children in who are age-eligible for COVID-19 vaccines and those younger patients who are overdue for others. You can pave the way for parents to feel empowered and ready to vaccinate their younger children when the ACIP makes that recommendation.

We also wanted to share a special open access issue of [Academic Pediatrics](#). The collection of commentaries and review articles from noted experts highlights effective strategies immunization providers and programs can use to help improve vaccination coverage among children and adolescents including interventions that directly change behavior such as reminder/recall, effective interventions at the practice level a framework to move implementation of strategies from research to practice, and cost analysis of interventions.

We encourage all pediatricians in the State of Connecticut to play an active role in enabling access for their patients to COVID-19 vaccines.



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Logistics and Planning

Information on billing a COVID-19 vaccine administration fee is available in the [CMAP COVID-19 Response - Bulletin 48: COVID-19 Vaccine Administration - Medical Practitioners](#) and in the [Responses to Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) About CMAP's Response to COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#).

Moderna vaccine

- Moderna is currently indicated for adults only – individuals 18 years of age and older.
- [Moderna announced on May 25th](#) that the Phase 2/3 study of its COVID-19 vaccine (mRNA-1273) in adolescents aged 12 through 17 has met its primary immunogenicity endpoint, successfully bridging immune responses to the adult vaccination.
- Moderna plans to submit data to the Food and Drug Administration for amendment of the Emergency Use Authorization in early June.
- [Moderna](#) is available for order in 100 dose increments and should be stored in the freezer between -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) until the expiration date.

Pfizer vaccine

- Pfizer is currently indicated for adolescents and adults – individuals 12 years of age and older.
- Pfizer vaccine is currently direct-shipped from the manufacturer and is available in a minimum tray/order size of 450 doses, although the majority (65%) of vaccine is coming into the state in the 1,170 dose trays/order size.
- **Pfizer vaccine can now be stored for up to 30 days at standard refrigerator temperatures.**
- 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](#).

If you would like to enroll to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider, 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.

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 also 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](#).

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.

Sincerely,



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