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Subject: Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines Call and Updates



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

November 3, 2021

This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine— please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all of our communications are archived on our web site.

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

As you are aware, yesterday CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that children between the ages of 5 and 11 receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky has accepted those recommendations. Vaccination of children 5-11 has already begun in Connecticut, and we are grateful to all of you who have done so much to prepare for this moment.

Below is information on an upcoming clinical webinar related to the recommendation as well as information on the timing of availability of CDC resource webpages that should be available in the days ahead:

- **COCA Call – Thursday, November 4th from 2-3pm ET** ([Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC's Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Children 5–11 years old](#)). On this call, the CDC will provide an overview of its recommendations and clinical considerations for administering COVID-19 vaccination primary series in children aged 5–11 years old.
- Updated webpage – [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)
- Updated [interim clinical considerations](#) – in the coming days (likely today)
- [MMWR](#) on pediatric recommendations – in the coming days
- [Pfizer](#) updated standing orders – in the coming days

In addition, we want to make sure you are aware of the following items – which are answers to questions the Immunization Program has received over the past days:

- **Pfizer pediatric vials do not contain vaccine expiration date**—the date of manufacture is printed on the vial. The QR code on the box provides a link to the EUA Fact Sheet; Pfizer does not have a look up tool for vaccine expiration date. If vaccine is stored in ultra-cold storage, then the expiration date is 6 months from the

- manufacture date printed on the vial. CDC will have clinical materials to assist with tracking expiration and beyond-use dates posted soon.
- Upon arrival, please follow EUA recommendations for storage of the Pfizer 5 through 11 years of age formulation and store it in an ultra-low freezer or refrigerator:
 - Ultra-Low temperature freezer (-90°C to -60°C) for up to 6 months. Do NOT use vaccine stored at ultra-low temperatures longer than 6 months.
 - Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C) for up to 10 weeks. Do NOT use vaccine stored at refrigerated temperatures longer than 10 weeks.
 - Do NOT store in a standard freezer.

Finally, as a reminder, you can support patients to find clinic locations by directing them to ct.gov/covidvaccine. Right now, this website hosts a vaccine finder tool that is updated by the Immunization Program. In the future, this website will link directly to vaccines.gov. In order to make sure your clinic listings remain up to date, please make sure that you are registered and report your inventory to VaccineFinder, and select the option to make your clinic visible to the public.

Thank you for everything you are doing to roll-out the COVID vaccine for children 5-11!