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Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 7:57 PM

To:

Subject: COVID 19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin: Week of January 11, 2021

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

This bulletin is sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine. 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](#).

There are several updates contained within this message. Please read this in its entirety.

- **Phase 1b to start on January 18.** Please see the memo regarding Phase 1b that was sent today.
- **Moderna second doses will start arriving this week.** Everyone who received a first shipment of vaccine in week 1 will receive the same amount this week for second doses except in cases where facilities still have unused Moderna first doses in inventory. If for any reason you do not already have your clinic set up, scheduled, and ready to administer second doses please make sure this is fixed immediately. Our goal is to complete second doses on schedule (21 days for Pfizer, 28 days for Moderna)
- **VAMS On-Demand Support – Available 9am-3pm Monday to Thursday this week.** [Click here to join the meeting](#). Join at any time during the open hours with VAMS-related questions and live helpdesk support.
- **VAMS Training Materials and Important VAMS System Updates:** [VAMS Training \(ct.gov\)](#).
- **Please remember to report your inventory to Vaccine Finder.** We anticipate that the data you are reporting on inventory is going to become available for DPH to access at the jurisdiction level soon. Along with doses administered, on hand inventory will be an important data point for planning and evaluating the COVID-19 vaccine response.
- **Share with your vaccine recipients:** New CDC page (with printable handout): [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#).
- The following were included in last week's bulletin, but are so important that we are reiterating in case anyone missed it:
 - **When ordering, plan to use all doses requested during the week.**
 - **If you are observing slack in your schedule, let us know** – we will work with you to ensure individuals can navigate to your clinics.
 - **Make sure that your doses administered are reported within 24 hours.** Reported doses administered will influence weekly orders and doses reported after 24 hours will impact 2nd dose scheduling. If there are any reporting issues, please contact the department.
 - **Sam Kruse** (Sam.Kruse@ct.gov) will be the DPH lead on our inventory management and throughput efforts. He will be reaching out to you to determine what our needs are to support rapid access and administration of our State's doses.

Storage and handling updates

It is imperative that you safeguard your vaccines—this includes reading through the storage and handling manual, drafting a detailed and complete emergency back-up plan, and monitoring the forecast for inclement weather that may result in power outages.

- You should be alerted immediately if a temperature excursion occurs. Moderna vaccine should be stored in a freezer until date of a clinic—this allows more leeway (Moderna can be used for 30 days if temperature rises in a freezer just above acceptable range; no leeway exists for excursion from refrigerator to room temperature)
- **No additional Moderna vaccine will be shipped to providers that do not have a freezer capable of maintaining appropriate stable temperatures (between -25°C and -15°C / -13°F and 5°F) and a data logger for that unit. Please update your equipment in the Manage Assets section of CT WiZ and submit 72 hours of stable temperatures if you have not already done so.**
- **Mandatory training:** CDC has created a new web on-demand, self-paced training module for healthcare providers who will be administering Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Continuing education is available for this module. For more information, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/courses.html>.

Wastage policy (see attachment)

Given the fact that both vaccines come in multi-dose vials, there is potential for wastage or excess vaccine at the end of the day, please see the attached document for specific guidance on how to manage this wastage. The key points are:

- The guiding principle is to make all reasonable efforts to use all available doses to vaccinate individuals who are eligible in the current phase.
- You should maintain a waitlist that can be called at the end of a clinic day, if needed, to use the rest of the doses.
- You should consider deferring vaccinations if the number of people at the clinic at the end of the day are not enough to use a full vial. You can ask these individuals to return the next day.

Ensuring eligibility to receive vaccine (see attachment)

We are aware of issues with non-phase 1a individuals receiving vaccine during the current phase. Please review the attached document for guidance on the provider's role in upholding our eligibility policies as a State. The key parts of this policy are:

- Ask individuals to confirm their eligibility at time of appointment.
- Hang the "Current Phase" poster in prominent locations at your clinic.
- Consider using the personal attestation card if you choose.
- Cancel appointments of individuals who may be attending clinics out-of-phase.

Additional information

- **Accounting for extra doses in a vaccine vial in VAMS:** Please log the extra doses by manually adding an entire vial and then subtracting doses not in the vial to account for and reconcile your inventory.
- **Second dose scheduling VAMS:** Guidance for scheduling second dose appointments in VAMS is on our web site.
- **Ordering process:** As previously indicated, orders for more "first doses" of vaccine should be submitted through the VAMS clinic portal for VAMS users (or CT WiZ for non-VAMS users) by noon each Wednesday. Please order what you will confidently be able to administer within 7 days of receiving shipment. DPH will communicate final orders by Friday. If you submitted an order that was not filled this week, resubmit a new order by noon on Wednesday to be considered in next weeks' fulfillment. Please note that previously placed orders remain in the system even if not fulfilled but will not be considered in future weeks requests for allocation.

- **Adverse event reporting:** Please remember to report any adverse events in recipients following COVID-19 vaccination to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#), and encourage participation in [V-safe](#) by including information about the system at clinic locations.
- **Expiration dates:** To determine the expiration date of a Moderna vaccine, [consult this website](#). Pfizer vaccine should have an expiration date printed on the vial.

• **Additional resources:** We are making updates to our COVID-19 Providers page in real time as we receive information from CDC, Pfizer, Moderna, and others. You can find this information on the [DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Providers website](#). We are also archiving our communications on this page.

CT DPH Immunization Program

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Website: [CT Immunization Program](#) | [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)