

# CVP Update



## Coming Soon.....Connecticut WebIZ (CT WiZ)

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) State Immunization Program is upgrading our current Immunization Information System (IIS) to one that meets all of the public health national standards including: vaccine ordering, bi-directional data exchange between IIS and electronic health record (EHR) systems, vaccine forecasting, and immunization coverage rate reporting. The new system will be called "CT WiZ" and will be operational in the summer of 2018.

DPH will migrate all the data from the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS) into CT WiZ.



### **What is an IIS?**

Immunization information systems (IIS) are confidential, population-based, computerized databases that record all immunization doses administered by providers to persons residing within a given geopolitical area. At the *point of clinical care*, an IIS can provide consolidated immunization histories for use by a vaccination provider in determining appropriate client vaccinations. At the *population level*, an IIS provides aggregate data on vaccinations for use in surveillance and program operations, and in guiding public health action with the goals of improving vaccination rates and reducing vaccine-preventable disease.

### **What does this transition mean for you?**

For now, if you are currently online with CIRTS and/or VTrckS, you will continue to enter your doses administered into CIRTS and/or your vaccine orders into VTrckS; those of who report electronically through your EHR to CIRTS will continue to do so. For those not currently online, you will continue to fax or mail reports. This will ensure the data is clean and complete and ensure a smooth data migration to the new IIS. EHR files will be tested in the new system prior to the migration to ensure data quality is maintained. DPH will work with you to set up username accounts in CT WiZ, and provide trainings on how to enter doses administered, order vaccines, and electronically report from your EHR to CT WiZ. To focus on this transition, DPH will stop training new users on the current systems to prepare trainings for all users on the new IIS, CT WiZ.

### **Stay Tuned for updates on CT WiZ trainings!**

The Connecticut Vaccine Program ensures all children in the state receive the vaccinations they need to stay healthy. For more information, visit us at [www.ct.gov/dph/cvp](http://www.ct.gov/dph/cvp) or contact us at (860) 509-7929 or [dph.immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:dph.immunizations@ct.gov). To sign up for E-Alerts, click on the "Sign up for E-Alerts" icon on the left-hand side of any Department of Public Health web page. Register and submit the form. Check the box to receive updates from "**Connecticut Vaccine Program: News, Updates, Alerts**". To Get Started Click on <http://www.ct.gov/dph/guestaccount/login.asp>.

## Influenza

In an effort to protect the public's health and reduce the spread of the influenza (flu) virus which has heavily affected the state, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) teamed up with local health departments to provide free or low cost influenza vaccine at several locations across the state on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen Health Departments held clinics that day. Thanks to their efforts, more than 1000 people were vaccinated for the flu. Twelve additional Flu Clinics were held on February 10, 2018.

As of February 24, 2018, influenza activity remains high and widespread in most of the U.S. including in Connecticut. There have been 2,161 hospitalizations and 105 deaths in Connecticut related to influenza. The current season total of 105 deaths is the highest number of influenza-associated deaths reported to the Department since 2009, when all influenza-associated deaths became reportable in Connecticut.

“The positive news is that we appear to be past the peak of the flu season. This however, does not mean the season is done. We still have several more weeks to go, and I continue to urge people to take precautions to prevent contracting or spreading the flu,” said DPH Commissioner Dr. Pino.

A vaccination can prevent infection or lessen symptoms, if infected. Connecticut also continues to have high rates of influenza like illness. To prevent illness, people should practice good health habits including handwashing, covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and staying home when sick.



## 2018 Recommended Immunization Schedules

In October 2017, [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger — United States, 2018](#) was published.

Printable versions of the 2018 immunization schedules for children and adolescents aged 18 years or younger and ordering instructions for laminated versions and easy-to-read versions for parents also are available at the immunization schedule website.

[Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older — United States, 2018](#)

The adult immunization schedule also contains information on general principles of immunization for

adults; considerations for special populations, such as pregnant women; reference resources pertinent to adult immunization; instructions for reporting adverse events associated with vaccinations and suspected cases of reportable vaccine-preventable diseases; and an ACIP-approved list of standardized abbreviations for vaccines recommended for adults. Changes in the 2018 adult immunization schedule from the previous year's schedule include new ACIP recommendations for the use of recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV) for adults aged 50 years or older and the use of an additional dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) in a mumps outbreak setting.

## Hepatitis B Birth Dose

The birth dose of hepatitis B is vital to protect infants from hepatitis B virus infection. If an infant is infected with hepatitis B at birth, they have a 90% chance of becoming chronically infected with hepatitis B, which can lead to liver cancer, cirrhosis, and liver failure as an adult. Research has shown that in some cases a woman's hepatitis B lab results can be missing, mistranscribed, or misordered in her prenatal chart and her hepatitis B infection may be missed. A universal hepatitis B birth dose policy acts as a safety net to prevent hepatitis B infection in at-risk newborns.

- Check out "Give birth to the end of Hep B" at: <http://www.immunize.org/protect-newborns/>

### Hepatitis B birth dose rates for Connecticut's hospitals for the 2017 birth cohort are:

- The statewide rate was **86%**.
- The range for acute-care birthing hospitals was **66% - 96%**.
- Hospitals with a birth dose rate of **90% or greater can apply for the Immunization Action**

**Coalition's Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll.** This is an achievement to strive for. We have several Connecticut hospitals that have made the list and would like to add more! Hospitals on the honor roll are:

- Families Are First Birthing Center Bristol Hospital, Bristol, CT
- Griffin Hospital, Derby, CT
- MidState Medical Center, Meriden, CT
- Saint Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, CT
- The Hospital of Central Connecticut, New Britain, CT
- UConn Health, Farmington, CT
- Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, CT

For more information about the honor roll, please visit: <http://www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose>

**For additional questions or information on immunizations, please contact the Connecticut Vaccine Program at (860) 509-7929.**