

CVP Update



August is **National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)**

This annual observance highlights the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. NIAM was established to encourage people of all ages to make sure they are up to date on the vaccines recommended for them. Communities have continued to use the month each year to raise awareness about the important role vaccines play in preventing serious, sometimes deadly, diseases.

Various FREE resources available. Click on these links: [CDC](#) or [NPHIC](#)

The themes and dates for this year are:

- **July—August** - Back to School: Ready for school? Make sure those vaccine records are up to date!
- **July 31—August 6** - Babies and Young Children: A healthy start begins with on-time vaccinations.
- **August 7—13** - Pregnant Women: Protect yourself and pass protection on to your baby.
- **August 14—20** - Adults: Vaccines are not just for kids.
- **August 21—27** - Preteens/Teens: Ensure a healthy future with vaccines.



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 or contact us at (860) 509-7929 or 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>.

Updated General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released the [General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization](#) as an online report, available on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) web page. Click the blue ink above.

The **General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization** replace the *General Recommendations on Immunization*, last published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* in 2011.

The updated guidelines include:

- New information on simultaneous vaccination and febrile seizures
- Enhancement of the definition of “precaution” to include any condition that might confuse diagnostic accuracy
- More descriptive characterization of anaphylactic allergy
- Incorporation of protocols for management of anaphylactic allergy
- Allowances for alternate route (subcutaneous instead of intramuscular) for hepatitis A vaccination
- An age cutoff of 12 years through 17 years for validating a dose of intradermal influenza vaccine
- Deletion of much of the storage and handling content, including information on storage units, temperature monitoring, and expiration dates. This content is now contained and continually updated in [CDC’s Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)
- Incorporation of the Infectious Diseases Society of America guidance on vaccination of persons with altered immunocompetence
- Timing of intramuscular administration in patients with bleeding disorders
- Updated data on vaccination record policy
- Additional impacts of the Affordable Care Act on adult vaccination
- Updated programmatic contact information on source material for vaccine information

According to ACIP Executive Secretary Amanda Cohn, MD, “The **General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization** is a living document, and releasing it as an online report allows ACIP to update the document more quickly, giving vaccination providers the most up-to-date guidance on vaccination practice.”

The **General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization** goes beyond vaccination recommendations to give providers guidelines on vaccination practice. The document will help vaccination providers to assess vaccine benefits and risks, use recommended administration practices, understand the most effective strategies for ensuring that vaccination coverage in the population remains high, and communicate the importance of vaccination to reduce the effects of vaccine-preventable disease.

Other Immunization Updates

Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) Update

The [Td VIS](#) has recently been updated and is now available. Please visit the CDC [VIS web page](#) for additional information on VISs.

You Call the Shots Modules

The [HPV](#) module, [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\)](#) module, and [Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) module have recently been updated and are now available. Please visit the [You Call the Shots web page](#) for additional information and other modules. Continuing Education (CE) is available for viewing a module and completing an evaluation.

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, 13th Edition (the Pink Book)

The human papillomavirus (HPV), meningococcal disease, and pneumococcal disease chapters of the textbook, has now been updated and available: [Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases \(the Pink Book\)](#)

Immunization Resources

Publications are available for ordering at [CDC-INFO on Demand](#). You can search for immunization publications by using the “Programs” drop-down menu and selecting “Immunization and Vaccines,” or you can search by “Title.” Numerous items are available, including the [Parents’ Guide to Childhood Immunizations](#) and various campaign materials. The [2017 immunization schedules](#) will be available for ordering soon.

Clinician Fact Sheets on HPV

We encourage you to use every opportunity to effectively recommend and administer all of the adolescent vaccines to parents of your preteen and teen patients. **Parents trust your opinion more than anyone else’s when it comes to immunizations.** Use the resources to help you make effective recommendations and answer questions to help parents overcome HPV vaccine hesitancy. The [new fact sheets on HPV](#), may be helpful.

Welcome to Staff

Deepa Mavani recently joined DPH’s Connecticut Immunization Program as an Heath Program Assistant 1 responsible for processing vaccine orders for Region 3.

Free E-courses

New Vaccine Administration e-Learn is now available!

The [e-Learn](#) is a free, interactive, online educational program that serves as a useful introductory course or a great refresher on vaccine administration. The self-paced e-Learn provides comprehensive training, using videos, job aids, and other resources to accommodate a variety of learning styles, and offers a certificate of completion and/or Continuing Education (CE) for those that complete the training.

Proper vaccine administration is critical for ensuring that vaccines are both safe and effective. Vaccine administration errors happen more often than you might think. Of the average 36,000 reports received annually by the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), about 1,500 of those reports are directly related to administration error.

Some of the most common vaccination administration errors include:

- Not following the recommended immunization schedule
- Administering improperly stored or expired vaccine and/or diluent
- Administering the wrong vaccine—confusing look-alike or sound-alike vaccines such as DTaP/Tdap or administering products outside age indications

Sample social media posts

- Available now: updated E-learn course on #vaccine administration, with up-to-date procedures & guidelines. #CE <http://bit.ly/VAeLearn>
- Earn #CE credit w/ comprehensive, free vaccine administration E-learn now available. #CDCLearning <http://bit.ly/VAeLearn>

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