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Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 11:54 AM
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Provider Bulletin, Week of August 30



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

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.

Updated Standing Orders to Support Third Doses for Immunocompromised Individuals

Pfizer standing order for age 12 and older, updated 8/20/2021

Moderna standing order for age 18 and older, updated 8/20/2021

Booster Dose Updates

We are continuing to monitor updates from the federal government regarding booster doses. As a reminder, at this time, we still do not have any formal guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about booster dose recommendations. As we learn more, we will continue to update providers. Last Wednesday's provider call focused on booster planning, and if you have not already, please review the materials from that call which **can be found here**.

***NEW* FAQ Videos About the COVID-19 Vaccines & Children**

THE CONVERSATION / LA CONVERSACIÓN expands to address **the COVID-19 vaccines and children** with new FAQ videos featuring pediatricians. Pediatricians Answer Questions About Kids & the COVID-19 Vaccines, presented with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Comedian and TV host, **W. Kamau Bell** returns to ask the questions that many parents and caregivers have about the vaccine in a launch video for the series. Materials available **here**.

Recent COVID-19 and vaccine related publications

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly](#) (MMWR): Week of August 27, 2021
- [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2021-22 Influenza Season](#); includes updated influenza recommendations and [guidance for vaccine planning during the pandemic](#).
- [CDC Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory: Rapid Increase in Ivermectin Prescriptions and Reports of Severe Illness Associated with Use of Products Containing Ivermectin to Prevent or Treat COVID-19](#) Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network, August 26, 2021, 11:40 AM ET, CDCHAN-00449

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and Pfizer Vaccine

The FDA Provider and Recipient/Caregiver Fact Sheets have been updated following the FDA's approval of a Biologics License Application (BLA) for Pfizer's COMIRNATRY (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA). The BLA approval is for adults 16 years and older and EUA for adolescents will continue to cover adolescents ages 12 years of age through 15 years of age. At this time, it has been decided to continue using the EUA Fact Sheet format in the near term instead of a VIS document. The [FDA amendments and BLA documents](#) for Pfizer have been updated as of 8/23/2021.

Labor Day Holiday Vaccine Ordering Cadence

NO ORDERS WILL BE DELIVERED Labor Day MONDAY, September 6 (federally observed holiday). All providers should plan to order early prior to the Holiday weekend. If you need vaccine for clinics scheduled on the holiday weekend, submit your orders early in the week (Mon/Tues) prior to Labor Day weekend and notify Patricia Firmender (Patricia.Firmender@ct.gov).

No Pfizer vaccine deliveries will occur on Monday, September 6. No Moderna vaccine deliveries will occur on Monday, September 6 or Tuesday, September 7.

Recent updates to the Communication and Education Product Inventory

- [How to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation](#)
- [Clinical Care Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety](#)
- [COVID-19 Janssen Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [COVID-19 Moderna Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [CDC CVRS – What's New in Version 3 for Jurisdictions & Federal Partners](#)
- [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program: Vaccine Channel Portfolio by Jurisdiction](#)

ACIP COVID-19 Meeting now planned for one day only, Monday 8/30, 10-4pm ET. Agenda and webcast link is available [here](#).

REMINDERS

We are keeping information on many important reminders from past communications in the space below. To prevent this section from becoming too lengthy, what remains is selected carefully. All past communications are available [here](#).

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine is Approved

Today, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**, the first COVID-19 vaccine to gain full approval. The vaccine will now be marketed as "**Comirnaty**" for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

CT WiZ Immunization Public Portal is now live

- Vaccine recipients can now access immunization records through the secure **CT WiZ Public Portal**, a free service provided by the CT DPH Immunization Program. A press release can be found [here](#).
- Vaccine recipients and legal guardians can access official immunization records for themselves and their children if they are under the age of 18 using the CT WiZ Public Portal with 'two-factor authentication' to verify identity.
- Recipients won't find the record if the contact information does not match what the provider reported to CT WIZ. If they are unable to locate their record in the portal, they can contact the DPH Immunization Program for assistance ([helpdesk](#) or phone: 860-509-7929 during business hours Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm).

Ensure Best Practice by Checking CT WiZ Before Vaccinating

Prior to administering any vaccine, including the COVID-19 vaccine, it is important that a recipient's prior vaccine history be referenced in the Immunization Information System (CT WiZ); best clinical practice is to verify that the recommended interval has elapsed since a previous dose of vaccine and that the preferred brand of vaccine be administered.

- If your clinic established bi-directional data exchange, you can query CT WiZ for the patient immunization record [electronically from your EHR](#).
- Every CoVP enrolled clinic can [look up the patient immunization record](#) in the [CT WiZ user interface](#). Those who signed the CoVP Provider Agreement and the primary and back-up vaccine coordinator already have CT WiZ access.
- If your staff need access to CT WiZ, [request a username](#) and select the 'Clinic Access' role. Access to CT WiZ is defined in [EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13C](#).
- If you need support, please submit a [Helpdesk ticket](#).

Vaccine mandates

Last Thursday, Governor Lamont announced that he has issued an [executive order](#) requiring that all Connecticut state employees and staff of all childcare facilities and preK-12 schools statewide must have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by September 27, 2021. Those who do not get vaccinated due to certain exemptions will be required to be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis. However, state hospital and long-term care employees will not have the option of being tested in lieu of vaccination.

Clinics using VAMS must take the following [steps to enable recipients to schedule an additional dose](#) per the ACIP recommendation for the immune compromised.

- Go to the **Clinic Setup** tab and scroll to the **Clinic Location** window
- Click **Clinic Name** hyperlink and click **Edit** and scroll to **Vaccine Products Carried** window
- Check the **Additional Dose** box

Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines

You may administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines without regard to timing (both live, attenuated and non-live influenza vaccines). This includes administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration at any time interval. ([CDC|Interim Clinical Considerations: Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines](#))

With influenza season approaching, CDC recognizes there may be compelling logistical advantages to offering patients COVID-19 and influenza vaccines on the same day, and you may encourage patients to receive these on the same day. There are no safety concerns for coadministration.

When deciding whether to coadminister another vaccine(s) with COVID-19 vaccine, consider:

- Whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines;
- The patient's risk of vaccine-preventable disease;

- The reactogenicity profile of the vaccines;
- The likelihood of avoiding a missed opportunity to vaccinate.

Best practices for multiple injections include:

- Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
- Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction (i.e., adjuvanted influenza vaccines) in different limbs, if possible.

COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering

- The supply of J&J vaccine available for redistribution is extremely low. As such, orders for J&J may not be able to be filled in total this week. CDC is looking into resuming shipment in September, but a timeline is not clear. Additional information will be communicated as it becomes available.
- Pfizer trays of 450 are no longer available for direct shipment. All Pfizer orders placed this week for direct shipment will be 1170. Changes have been made in the ordering portal to reflect this. CoVP providers can continue to place orders of any quantity in our ordering portal, as long as it is in multiples of the vial size for the appropriate product. Any orders that are less than the minimum shipment size will be filled by in-state transfer.

Report vaccine temperature excursions and vaccines wasted to the [Helpdesk](#) by following the prompts and submitting a ticket.

- Immediately report all temperature excursions in storage units containing COVID-19 vaccines. Staff will be notified in real time of the excursion and will assist you. Please store vaccines in the storage unit in a paper bag marked "do not use" until a determination about the viability of the vaccine has been made, in consultation with the manufacturer and the Immunization Program.
- Also report to the Helpdesk all COVID-19 vaccines deemed wasted or expired. This includes Pfizer vials from which a sixth dose cannot be extracted.

Reminder: Check your vaccine listing

Please check that your clinic is properly listed at ct.gov/covidvaccine. Please send an email with any updates, corrections, or additions to Caroline.Hou@ct.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccine and Pregnancy

The increased circulation of the highly contagious [Delta variant](#), the [low vaccine uptake among pregnant people](#), and the increased risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19 infection among pregnant people make vaccination for this population more urgent than ever.

The CDC webpage [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#) contains some key messages for you to share with your patients.

Post Notice to Patients About Reporting to CT WiZ at CoVP Clinics

All clinics enrolled in the CoVP must post the [Notice to Patients About Reporting to CT WiZ](#), to let vaccine recipients know their records are being reported to CT WiZ. If you are reporting through VAMS, this data is transmitted to CT WiZ.

Replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards

- *Recommendation:* Post your procedure for recipients to request replacement cards, in a location visible to recipients at your clinic as well as on your website. If your clinic needs additional CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Cards, contact DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov and we will email you a pdf of the card for your clinic to print (*note: these should not be posted on your website*). Large type print cards are also available via pdf.
- *Reminder:* You should issue replacement CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Cards to your vaccine recipients should they request one. DPH cannot issue a card to recipients, but DPH can provide the immunization record from CT WiZ. DPH's procedure is on our COVID-19 Vaccine and DPH Immunization webpages at: [I lost my vaccine card, how do I get another one? \(ct.gov\)](#) and [Request an Official Immunization Record](#)

Resources

- [Advisory: Confronting Health Misinformation](#) *US Surgeon General*
- [New Website: COVID-19 Vaccine Equity for Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups](#) *CDC – CHEO*

Upcoming Clinic Trainings and Office Hours

- **CoVP Update**
Provides CoVP Vaccinating Providers updates on the CoVP Program and Q&A with DPH staff. **Every other Wednesday** 9:00am-10:00am; Join: [CoVP Office Hours](#). The next meeting will be September 8th.

- **CoVP Enrollment Office Hours** Provides information about the CoVP enrollment process in CT WiZ and Q&A with DPH staff. **Mondays & Thursdays** 12:00pm-12:30pm; Join: [CoVP CT WiZ Enrollment Office Hours](#)
- **Vaccine Storage and Handling Assessment** For clinics who completed CoVP enrollment and received an invite to attend. **Tuesdays & Thursdays** 10:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-2:00pm; **By invitation Only**
- **CT WiZ Inventory Management Office Hours** Provides information on how to manage inventory functions in CT WiZ such as: reconciliations, transfers, wastage, etc. and Q & A with DPH staff. **Wednesdays** 12:00pm-1:00pm; Join: [CT WiZ Inventory Management Office Hours](#)
- **VAMS & CT WiZ Live Helpdesk Office Hours** Clinics can ask questions about VAMS and CT WiZ functionality to DPH staff. **Tuesdays** 9:00am 10:00am; Join: [VAMS Live Helpdesk Office Hours](#)

Visit: [VAMS Training](#) and [CT WiZ Training](#) for enhancement release notes and training.

Thank you for all of your ongoing work and support of our COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Connecticut.

CT DPH Immunization Program Main P: (860) 509-7929 | Fax: (860) 706-5429 | Email: dph.immunizations@ct.gov Website: [CT Immunization Program](#) | [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)