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**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 2:07 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** CoVP Provider Bulletin, Week of March 22, 2021

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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

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

This bulletin contains several important updates and reminders.

### **Resources You Can Use Now**

- [How to talk about COVID-19 vaccines with friends and family](#)
- [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Childcare Programs](#)

### **Publications**

- *MMWR: [County-Level COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Social Vulnerability — United States, December 14, 2020–March 1, 2021](#)*
- *MMWR: [COVID-19 Vaccine Second-Dose Completion and Interval Between First and Second Doses Among Vaccinated Persons — United States, December 14, 2020–February 14, 2021 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)*
- *MMWR: [Effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine among Residents of Two Skilled Nursing Facilities Experiencing COVID-19 Outbreaks — Connecticut, December 2020–February 2021](#)*

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in Connecticut**

If you want to see the latest Connecticut data on vaccine distribution and administration, visit the [CT Data Portal](#). COVID-19 vaccination data is updated weekly on Thursdays.

### **Second dose reminders**

On a weekly basis, providers should review missed appointments or other reasons for scheduled second doses not being used, and remaining doses should be repurposed for use as first doses. **Second doses should not be held or saved for patients who have not returned after 42 days following their first dose; these should be used as first doses.**

### **Important Reminders**

- Orders are due at noon on Tuesdays. Order requests should be based on Moderna and / or Pfizer doses needed and assume J&J doses will NOT be provided. We have very little J&J vaccine available currently, so these orders can still be requested, but are

unlikely to be fulfilled. Please provide information how you intend to use any J&J doses requested.

- Please hang the “[What to expect poster after COVID-19 vaccination](#)” poster at your clinics—we removed the patient specific section—to better serve mass vaccination clinic settings. Please encourage vaccine recipients to register for [V-safe](#) (now available in [multiple languages](#)). **V-safe** participants will receive text messages and web surveys in the language chosen when they sign up. Please maintain a wait list of eligible individuals in case vaccine becomes available that must be used within a narrow timeframe.
- Ensure that your clinic is protecting your vaccine against temperature excursions: Always store Moderna vaccines frozen (in the freezer) until the date of clinic.
- Report temperature excursions to the [Helpdesk](#) by submitting a ticket. 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.
- You should expect your second dose shipments of Moderna and Pfizer vaccines to arrive approximately 25 days after your first doses were received.