
From: [CT Department of Public Health](#)
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:18 PM
Subject: COVID Vaccine Provider Bulletin Week of April 26, 2021



Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Thank you again for your continued efforts in the COVID Vaccine roll-out. This email contains important information for COVID vaccine providers – please read this message in its entirety.

Janssen (J&J) administration may resume

On Friday April 23, the FDA and CDC recommended lifting the pause on administration of the Janssen vaccine, following a safety review and the recommendation of the ACIP.

Health care providers administering the vaccine should review the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#) and the [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#), which have been revised to include information about the risk of this syndrome that has occurred in a very small number of people who have received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Connecticut COVID Vaccine providers may now resume administration of the Janssen vaccine upon reviewing these materials.

- **The updated [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) should be furnished to all vaccine recipients.**
- Providers are reminded that the type of vaccine on offer should be transparent to the patient at the time of scheduling. Individuals who do not find the type of vaccine they prefer at a site should be provided with resources for how to schedule at a site with their preferred vaccine type. Patients can be directed to covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov to locate sites based on vaccine type
- More information is available in the CoVP [Provider communication that was sent out on April 23](#).
- Join the CDC COCA Call: Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine and Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS): Update for Clinicians-- April 27, 2021 at 2–3:00 PM ET. View the full details [here](#).

- Janssen vaccine may again be used by hospitals discharging patients to skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities, as well as other settings depending upon available supplies.

Vaccine safety

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website [Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#) which includes information and links out to safety information and what you need to do.

The [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals](#) page has been updated and reorganized. Here you can find general Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 vaccines. Topics include scheduling, storage and handling, vaccine administration, vaccination documentation as well as vaccine safety and efficacy. There is also a FAQ list dedicated to each COVID-19 vaccine product, these are available through each info-by-product webpage:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech](#)
- [Moderna](#)
- [Janssen/J&J Vaccine](#)

Please continue to encourage patients to register for [V-safe](#), and report adverse events to [VAERS](#).

Residency requirement update

Given the new phase of roll-out and a desire to increase access, providers are no longer required to confirm Connecticut residency status during vaccine appointments or scheduling. We hope this will reduce the identification and verification burden at clinic sites and ensure that clinics are welcoming to all.

In addition, providers who have patients from outside of Connecticut are able to invite those patients in for vaccination at their clinics.

Coming soon: New product formats

- [Moderna announced April 1st](#) that their vial size will be increasing from 10 doses per vial to 15 doses per vial (maximum). The 10 dose vials will phase out during May. Moderna also announced changes to storage and handling: storage between -50°C to -15°C (wider temperature range) for frozen temperature and storage between 8°C to 25°C for 24 hours total (an increase from 12 hours).
- Pfizer will be shipping in smaller quantities starting in late May or early June. The minimum dose order will be 450 doses rather than 1,170 doses (25 vials per tray x 6 doses/vial = 150 doses/tray, 1 shipper = 3 trays = 450 doses/shipper). Not all Pfizer

will be shipped in the smaller shipper sizes – the State will receive some vaccine in smaller shippers (450) and some in the current size (1,170). We know both the 450 and the 1,170 formats are larger than what many primary care or provider offices can reasonably use, so the State is working on mechanisms for redistribution of smaller quantities of Pfizer vaccine.

- On April 9, Pfizer submitted an Emergency Use Authorization amendment to expand Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to age 12 through 15. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is expected to meet on this during the first half of May, but precise timing is not yet known.

Avoiding vaccine wastage

Several CoVP providers have contacted us with concerns over potentially wasting COVID-19 vaccines should they puncture a vial and not be able to use each dose within the needed timeframe.

While vaccinators should still do their utmost to avoid vaccine wastage, concerns about wastage should not be a barrier to providing COVID-19 vaccines to willing recipients presenting for appointments or walk-ups.

Please continue to use creative strategies to avoid wastage, such as shared waitlists, phoning or texting those with appointments in coming days to present early, actively inviting in individuals who are in the vicinity (e.g., some providers have made PA announcements for grocery store-located pharmacies), etc. Continue to report vaccine wastage to the DPH [Helpdesk](#).

Resources you can use

- [“Answers to Tough Questions about Public Health”](#) from Public Health Communications Collaborative. Includes answers to Janssen COVID-19 pause, etc.
- HHS [Vaccine Hesitancy for COVID-19: State, County, and Local Estimates | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#) (map showing county level estimates of COVID vaccine hesitancy)

High school clinics

School leaders and local health directors are encouraged to coordinate with CoVP providers to arrange Pfizer vaccine clinics for eligible students (age 16+). High school clinics will take different forms depending on the local context: in some cases, on-site clinics are being planned at each high school led by the local health department; in others, a vaccine provider will be offering dedicated clinics for these students at a central location. Each district can define its own model and we will be here to support.

If you would like help matching your school(s) with a CoVP provider and arranging student vaccine clinics — or if you have questions regarding how to effectively communicate with

students and families to ensure maximum coverage — please reach out to Cameron Cross at: Cameron.Cross@ct.gov.

REMINDERS

Second dose follow-up

Thank you to all providers for scheduling second doses at the time of the first dose and for conducting active follow up of patients overdue for second doses. Providers are asked to abide by the following procedures:

- At least three different contact attempts should be made with patients before considering them lost to follow up
- Contact attempts should include multiple different media. For example, phone call, text and email
- The [second dose scheduling policy](#) has been updated as of April 19th to reflect the changes to provider ordering of both first and second doses.

DPH is monitoring second timeliness and completion rates by provider and will be following up with providers who are lagging on second dose completion.

Check your listing

Providers are reminded to check their listing at covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov. If any corrections are needed, please email Caroline.Hou@ct.gov

In addition, providers offering walk-up appointments should also email Caroline to be included in marketing and promotion of walk-up appointments.

Upcoming Clinic Trainings and Office Hours

- Visit: [VAMS Training \(ct.gov\)](https://vams.ct.gov) for Dates/Links
- Does your clinic need more training support? Please complete this very brief **Clinic Training Survey**: <https://form.jotform.com/211024658456152> In only a few minutes, you can help us tailor your future trainings/support. *Thank you!*

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