

From: CT Department of Public Health <noreply-dphimmunizations@ct.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 7:07 PM

Subject: CoVP Provider Bulletin, Week of April 19: Important updates



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Dear Connecticut COVID Vaccine Providers,

Thank you again for your continued efforts in the Covid-19 Vaccine roll-out. This email contains important information for our COVID vaccine providers – please read this message in its entirety.

Key updates include:

- **The weekly ordering process will change – starting next week, second doses will no longer ship automatically.** Rather than ordering just first doses, providers will order ALL the doses they need – including both first and second doses. This week's ordering process will remain unchanged; the change goes into effect next week.
- **Providers should make plans to offer second doses to individuals who receive first doses out of state.** Many college students will be returning to Connecticut in the next weeks. Providers are asked to make it possible for individuals who received first doses out of state (or at other providers) to receive their second dose in Connecticut. Providers should continue to automatically schedule second doses at the time of the first.
- **Moving forward, providers may open schedules up to 4-weeks in advance (at levels not to exceed previously-communicated baselines).** Providers should note that demand is not likely to fill all clinics for this entire time period, and providers should consider carefully how many slots to open given your own clinic capacity.
- **More primary care settings will be enrolled as vaccine providers.** As we look ahead to the summer and a maintenance model of vaccine administration, we will seek to enroll more primary care settings as COVID-19 vaccine administrators.
- **Clinics for all high school districts can now be scheduled.** Access to vaccine for all eligible individuals – including 16-17 year old individuals – is a priority for our program. More information will be forthcoming. Providers can schedule dedicated high school clinics for all districts using their baseline allocation. Requests for supplemental allocation for this purpose before May 3rd should be emailed to Sam.Kruse@ct.gov, Patricia.Firmender@ct.gov, and Cameron.Cross@ct.gov to confirm that allocation will be available prior to finalizing your clinic date.

Ordering Process Update: Second Doses will NOT automatically ship

As we approach the next phase of the vaccine roll-out, we will streamline and simplify the vaccine ordering process. Here is an overview of what is staying the same and what is changing.

What is staying the same:

- The weekly ordering deadline remains Tuesday at 12pm ET and orders will still be placed via the ordering portal ([link](#)).
- Second dose needs will still take priority; providers will receive enough second doses to fill all second dose appointments.
- Providers should schedule second dose appointments at the time of the first dose; providers should conduct follow-up to ensure individuals complete the course.

What is changing:

- Starting with next week's order (Tuesday, April 27), providers will need to order ALL the doses they need for the following week, not just the first doses. Second doses will no longer automatically ship.
- In the new ordering process, providers will be asked to indicate the total doses they need for the two weeks following the order, as well as the specific number of estimated second doses required
- Starting Monday, April 26, providers will no longer need to separate first and second dose inventory on-hand, and providers may administer excess second doses as first doses as needed
- First and second dose orders will not be distinguished by day of arrival – combined first and second dose orders will primarily arrive on Monday or Tuesday.

In order to facilitate the transition to this new ordering process:

- The final delivery of automatic second dose shipments will arrive as usual on Wednesday or Thursday of this week (4/21 or 4/22). No changes are being made to this week's ordering.
- First and second doses for appointments for the week of May 3 will need to be ordered in next week's order, which is due at noon on Tuesday, April 27.
- Please ensure that your order submitted tomorrow, April 20th, will provide you sufficient inventory for appointments through May 3rd (taking into account this week's automatic second dose shipment)

We will provide an overview of these changes, including updates to the order submission form, on Wednesday's COVID Vaccine Provider call (see call information at the end of this communication). We will also answer any questions you may have at this time. Please consult the calendar below for the relevant dates for this process.

Below is a calendar view of the transition to the new ordering system.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
April 18	19 First dose shipment ordered on 4/13 arrives, per usual	20 Deadline to submit orders for 4/26, per usual	21 COVID Provider call with overview of ordering system (9am)	22 Automatic shipments for week of April 26 arrive per usual	23	24
25	26 First dose shipments ordered on Apr 20 arrive, per usual	27 Order deadline at 12p (new order process: include first AND second dose)	28	29 <i>No second dose shipments automatically arriving - second doses for upcoming week need to be ordered on 4/27</i>	30	May 1
2	3 Combined first and second dose shipment ordered on 4/27 arrives	4 Order deadline at 12p (new order process: include first AND second dose)	5	6	7	8
9	10 Combined first and second dose shipment ordered on 5/4 arrives	11 Order deadline at 12p (new order process: include first AND second dose)	12	13	14	15

Out-of-state First Doses

As college students return to Connecticut from school, we are requesting that providers accept any second dose appointments from residents who received their first dose outside of Connecticut. The updated ordering process will remove any second dose constraints imposed by these arrivals, so please do not turn away these individuals.

In addition, although providers are required to schedule the second dose at the time of the first dose, we know there are cases where an individual may need to receive a second dose in a different location than their first dose. Providers are encouraged to accept such appointments.

Extending schedules:

Providers may extend out schedules four weeks against their previously communicated baseline allocation, on a rolling basis (i.e., May 10th as of today).

Providers who may not be continuing to serve as vaccinators should contact Sam.Kruse@CT.Gov and Patricia.Firmender@CT.Gov to confirm a transition plan.

High School clinic update

Providers may now begin to schedule dedicated clinics (closed PODS) for high school students from all districts (not just [Alliance Districts](#)). More information about allocation and supply for these clinics will be forthcoming.

Providers who would like to request allocation above their baseline allocations for these clinics should contact Sam.Kruse@ct.gov, Patricia.Firmender@ct.gov, and Cameron.Cross@ct.gov to confirm that allocation will be available prior to finalizing your clinic date.

Primary care enrollment

Connecticut's COVID-19 Vaccine Program will be inviting additional primary care practices to enroll as COVID-19 Vaccine providers. More information about this will be coming soon.

As we look ahead to the summer, the Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine program (CoVP) will expand its network of providers and shift from mass vaccination models to a broader range of channels that reflect the way that routine vaccines are administered. This will include pharmacies, primary care offices, and other providers – in addition to potential mass vaccination efforts that may be needed for expanded pediatric indications, boosters, or other continued mass vaccination needs.

The decision to enroll as a COVID-19 vaccine provider should not be taken lightly: providers who enroll will need to ensure they can meet all storage requirements, handling requirements, and reporting requirements. Further, primary care settings must ensure that the daily volumes of administrations they can offer is sufficient to use COVID-19 vaccines and avoid wastage.

J&J Pause

The J&J pause continues to be in effect. The ACIP is meeting this Friday to further discuss the J&J vaccine and may recommend lifting the pause. More information about the ACIP meeting can be found on the ACIP's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/index.html>

Weekly CoVP Provider Update – Access Information

Calls are Wednesday morning at 9am. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 860-840-2075,,728392236#](tel:+18608402075728392236)

Thank you!

Thank you for everything that you are doing to ensure access to COVID Vaccines for individuals across the State of Connecticut!

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