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Subject: Enrollment for CVP Providers to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear CVP Participants,

This correspondence is to invite you to enroll as a COVID-19 vaccine provider in Connecticut. A similar communication is being sent out to all licensed primary care providers, but you may disregard the other one and read on—this communication is specific to current CVP participants. You may disregard the following if you are already receiving COVID-19 vaccines.

Primary care providers are already playing a critical role in the vaccine roll-out: you are a trusted source of information for your patients. As we move forward, primary care will continue to play an important role in ensuring that all Connecticut residents have access to COVID-19 vaccines. 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 doses administered is sufficient to use COVID-19 vaccines and avoid wastage.

CVP providers who are interested in becoming COVID-19 vaccine providers should read this memo in its entirety.

Expanding the COVID-19 vaccine provider network

Over the past several months of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, vaccine administration has primarily relied on mass vaccination models where the clinical models used could support high-throughput administration, appropriate cold (and ultra-cold) chain procedures, and avoid wastage.

At this time, more than half of Connecticut adults have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and over 1 million residents are fully vaccinated. However, there are still significant barriers to overcome.

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.

Important information about the current COVID-19 vaccines

CVP providers who wish to administer COVID-19 vaccines should consider carefully the storage and handling requirements of each of the COVID-19 vaccines. Providers who enroll as COVID-19 vaccine providers will be able to order their selected product preference.

There are currently 3 vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, all in limited supply at this time.¹ [The COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#) is a quick reference for comparing general information, storage and handling and vaccine administration; more detailed information is available on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) web site](#).

Of note for pediatric primary care settings:

- **Pfizer:** The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized for those under age 18, including 16 and 17 year olds. It is only available in a minimum order size of 1,170

doses and can only be stored for up to 14 days at standard freezer temperatures. Pfizer is seeking authorization soon for ages 12 and older. Pfizer will be shipping in smaller quantities in late May-early June, when the minimum dose order will decrease to 450 doses. The CoVP is looking into arrangements that will enable providers to receive Pfizer in even smaller quantities, but at this time the current minimum order size may be prohibitive for many primary care settings. The Connecticut COVID Vaccine Program is currently working on establishing a way for small volumes of Pfizer to be distributed to primary care practices in Connecticut to better enable provider offices to use this vaccine. More information about this will be coming soon.

- **Moderna:** Moderna vaccine may also seek authorization for younger ages soon as well. Since Moderna vaccine can be stored at standard freezer temperatures until the expiration date and currently has a minimum order size of 100 doses, this may be a more suitable pack size for some primary care settings. Please note that Moderna is increasing the vial size to hold up to 15 doses per vial; 10 dose vials will be phased out during May. Once a vial of either size is punctured, all doses must be administered within 12 hours. To reduce wastage, providers should consider whether their clinical models will support handling and administration of these vaccines in a way that avoids waste associated with having extra vaccine left over in multi-dose vials.
- **Janssen (J&J):** Janssen vaccine requires only one dose and can be stored at standard refrigerator temperatures; the minimum order size is 100 doses. Per CDC recommendation, administration of the Janssen vaccine has been paused until the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voting members make a recommendation to the CDC director within the next week to ten days. The ACIP will meet next Friday April 23. We will provide further information in our CoVP Bulletin following this meeting.

Process to enroll for providers already enrolled in the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP)

There are several important steps that are required of you should you wish to administer COVID-19 vaccines to your patients. The steps are laid out on our [COVID-19 vaccine providers web site](#) numbered steps one through 6. Please review the page and follow the steps. We encourage all interested CVP participating practices to enroll as they are able.

Additionally, there are a few points of clarification relevant to current CVP providers.

- Under step one, please complete the pre-registration survey even if you completed it previously. Several updates were made to the survey since CVP providers were asked to complete it previously.
- Enrollment in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program is required to receive COVID-19 vaccines and is separate from CVP enrollment.
- COVID-19 vaccines are currently ordered through a DPH portal link, while CVP vaccines should continue to be ordered in CT WiZ.
- All COVID-19 vaccine doses administered must be reported to **CT WiZ, CT's Immunization Information System**, within 24 hours of administration. Should you enroll to receive COVID-19 vaccines, **you must begin reporting all CVP supplied doses to CT WiZ, not just COVID-19 doses.**
 - Options for reporting doses are detailed on the [CoVP Providers page](#) (step 2). You indicate your choice for reporting in the [pre-registration survey](#) (step 1).
- If additional clinic staff need access to CT WiZ, they should submit a request by visiting the [CT WiZ login page](#), and clicking on **Request User Account**. **Please include your PIN# when completing your registration; your PIN is ____.** The following [access types](#) should be selected when completing the registration:

- Clinic staff who will be adding and administering vaccines should request **Clinic Access**.
- Primary or backup vaccine coordinators who will be responsible for adding in new shipments for COVID-19 vaccine should request **Primary or Backup Vaccine Coordinator Access**. If you are currently enrolled in the CVP, these will be the same staff and will already have access.
- Staff that will be administering or prescribing COVID-19 vaccines, but who do not need access to CT WiZ should select **ADD ADMINISTRATORS/PREScribes TO CLINIC (NO CT WIZ ACCESS)**. This will add the staff's name to drop downs during the administering process. If you need access to CT WiZ and are also administering/prescribing, select **ADD ADMINISTRATORS/PREScribes TO CLINIC (WITH CT WIZ CLINIC ACCESS)**.

You must attend a COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling webinar (step 5). You will receive an email with the registration link once you have completed enrollment. This webinar is to review requirements for storing vaccine and to verify your storage equipment meets those needs COVID-19 vaccine specific guidelines.

Additional Resources:

Please sign up for our weekly provider bulletin at this [link](#).

Join us at the Weekly CoVP Update Wednesdays 9am.: [Click here to join the meeting](#) (click the link to join the live session) or **call in (audio only) +1 860-840-2075, 728392236#** Phone Conference ID: 728 392 236#