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Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 1:43 PM

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Provider Bulletin, Week of February 7, 2022



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 our communications are archived on our [web site](#).

Thank you for everything that you are doing to continue the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine program. Please continue your outreach to parents/individuals age 5 and older and encourage everyone to [stay up-to-date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.

UPDATES

Action Required: COVID-19 Young Pediatric Vaccination Planning Survey

The Department sent an email to all CoVP providers last Friday to assess readiness and anticipated barriers to vaccinate children under age 5. **Please review this [communication](#) and complete the survey at the link below by Wednesday, February 9, 2022.**

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID-19YoungPediPlanning>

Please complete the survey once for each PIN within your organization. If you have multiple enrolled provider locations, then please complete a separate survey for each PIN. If you oversee more than 5 provider PINs (e.g., chain pharmacies), then please email Dph.immunizations@ct.gov with the subject line “Spring 2022 Provider Survey: Young Pediatric Planning” and we will follow up with you directly.

Action Required: COVID-19 Young Pediatric Vaccine Pre-Order

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the anticipated shipping dates for week 1 of Pfizer’s young pediatric product (<5 years). To be eligible to receive vaccine on day one, you must be able to receive a shipment on Monday, February 21 (President’s Day). Anyone who orders product but is unable to receive a shipment on Monday, February 21 (President’s Day) will have product delivered beginning the following day, Tuesday, February 22. A [dedicated order form](#) is being used for the first week that Pfizer’s young pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is available. In future weeks, we will revert back to the usual COVID-19 vaccine order form.

For Monday, February 21 delivery, please complete [this form](#) by Thursday, February 10 at 9:00 am. The final deadline for a week 1 delivery (Tuesday 2/22 – Friday 2/25) will be Thursday, February 17 at 9:00 am.

Planning for Young Pediatric (6 month – 4 years) COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

[Pfizer has submitted a rolling emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#) to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) — this means that they have submitted safety and efficacy data for two (3 mcg) doses as part of an eventual three-dose primary series for this age group. Data on the third dose given at least 8 weeks after completion of the second dose are expected to be submitted in the coming months as part of the rolling submission.

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is [meeting on February 15](#) to discuss Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine EUA for children 6 months through 4 years of age. If the FDA grants an EUA, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet within a few days to issue a recommendation. It is even possible that vaccine distribution of the new product could begin as soon as President's Day, February 21. [Please note, that Pfizer's vaccine for children under 5 will still need an EUA authorization, ACIP recommendation and CDC Director's approval before providers can begin administration to this age group.](#)

The Pfizer vaccine for 6m–4-year-olds has a similar product configuration to the [5–11-year-old pediatric vaccine](#), but with a different color cap ([maroon](#)), different dose, a new national drug code (NDC), and potentially a different schedule. The packaging configuration for vaccine product for children 6m–4 years is expected to be 10-dose vials in cartons of 10 vials each (100 doses total) with a minimum direct ship order quantity of 100 doses. CoVP enrolled providers will be able to receive COVID-19 vaccines in smaller quantities than the minimum dose order currently available from the central distributor via redistribution. The maroon cap will require diluent, which will be provided with ancillary supplies to support 100 doses per kit. Storage and handling requirements will be the same as for the 5–11 age group (orange cap) Pfizer vaccine— up to 10 weeks at standard refrigerator temperatures (between 2°C - 8°C, or 36°F - 46°F).

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) updates

Interval shortened to 3 months for booster dose for immunocompromised

CDC is updating the [COVID-19 vaccine clinical considerations](#) for immunocompromised individuals, changing the interval for the booster dose to 3 months from 5 months (for both Pfizer and Moderna). **People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a booster dose at least 3 months after the last (third) dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.** CDC's web sites should be updated shortly. The slides from the meeting related to this discussion can be found [here](#).

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is Approved

Last week, the [FDA approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#), the second COVID-19 vaccine to gain full approval. The vaccine will now be marketed as "Spikevax" for the prevention of

COVID-19 disease in individuals 18 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under EUA.

Ticketing System Updates

The ticketing system has been updated to consolidate COVID-19 vaccine categories under the same umbrella topic as other Immunization related questions. This includes temperature excursion reporting, as well as wastage.

To report wastage, please use the updated options below:

* - Required Field

What system do you need assistance with?	Immunizations (CT WiZ) *
Select the category:	Clinic Administration *
Select the topic:	Report Vaccine Wastage (COVID-19) *
Select the sub topic:	Select a sub topic...

Recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWRs)

- SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Hospitalization Among Adults Aged ≥ 18 Years, by Vaccination Status, Before and During SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 (Omicron) Variant Predominance — Los Angeles County, California, November 7, 2021–January 8, 2022. Link [here](#).
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Vaccine Confidence by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity — United States, August 29–October 30, 2021. Link [here](#).
- Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Vaccination Among Persons Living with Diagnosed HIV Infection — New York, October 2021. Link [here](#).
- Effectiveness of Face Mask or Respirator Use in Indoor Public Settings for Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Infection — California, February–December 2021. Link [here](#).
- Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes Among Adults Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection During Periods of B.1.617.2 (Delta) and B.1.1.529 (Omicron) Variant Predominance — One Hospital, California, July 15–September 23, 2021, and December 21, 2021–January 27, 2022. Link [here](#).

CT WiZ Enhancement

- CT WiZ will be offline **February 7th from 8pm-10pm** for this month's release. Please plan reports and queries around this scheduled downtime. Visit: [CT WiZ Training](#)

- Enhancements in the release include ‘**Dose Level Accountability**’, which will enable clinics to properly document both patient and dose level eligibility according to: [Connecticut's Vaccine Eligibility Criteria](#).
 - Clinics using CT WiZ User Interface/Direct Data Entry: select the ‘Patient Level Eligibility’ in the Demographics screen which will populate and default to the Administer Vaccines screen. After adding the vaccine(s), you can change a vaccine’s eligibility ‘at the dose level’ on this screen, if needed. (i.e. **COVID-19 vaccine is under ‘VO1 Not VFC Eligible’**).
 - Clinics onboarded with their EHR are already currently reporting patient and dose level eligibility per HL7 requirements.

Upcoming Calls and Webinars this week

- CT DPH CoVP Update -- Wednesday February 9, 2022 9am; Join: [CoVP Update Meeting](#).
- CDC COCA Call: COVID-19 Updates: What Clinicians Need to Know About Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children - February 10, 2022, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET; Webinar link [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](#).

<p>Upcoming Clinic Trainings and Office Hours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoVP Update -- next meeting this Wednesday February 9 Provides CoVP Vaccinating Providers updates on the CoVP Program and Q&A with DPH staff. Every other Wednesday 9 am; Join: CoVP Update Meeting • The CoVP Enrollment Office Hours Provides information about the CoVP enrollment process in CT WiZ and Q&A with DPH staff. Mondays 12-12:30pm; 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 10-11am and 1-2pm & Thursdays 1-2pm; By invitation Only • VAMS & CT WiZ Live Helpdesk Office Hours Clinics can ask questions about VAMS and CT WiZ functionality to DPH staff. Tuesdays 9-10am; Join: VAMS Live Helpdesk Office Hours <p>Visit: VAMS Training and CT WiZ Training for enhancement release notes and training.</p>
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How to update your information in Vaccine Finder/Vaccines.gov

COVID-19 vaccine inventory counts must be reported to Vaccine Finder daily (*required*). **This is required, regardless of whether your clinic is set as publicly displaying or private.**

[Click here](#) for instructions:

- If you need to make updates to your primary point of contact for Vaccine Finder:
 - Please update [CT WiZ](#) under: Clinic Tools – Clinic Information – Staff. Include a note in the ‘comments field’ of the update stating this is for a new point of contact for Vaccine Finder. [Click here](#) for the CT WiZ training.
 - Once completed, a registration link will be sent to the new contact from the CDC. If you do not receive this link, please email CARS_HelpDesk@cdc.gov to request they resend the registration link.
- When the primary vaccine coordinator creates their initial account in Vaccine Finder, they will be asked if they would like to report inventory: for ‘all clinics’ under their organization or to report ‘clinics individually.’
 - If you select the option to report for ‘all clinics’ under your organization, only your primary vaccine coordinator contact will receive a registration link.
 - If you select the option to report ‘individually’, your back-up vaccine coordinator will also receive a registration link.

If you choose to publicly display your clinic on Vaccines.gov (*optional*), **please note that the shipping address listed in CT WiZ is what will be displayed on Vaccines.gov** as your clinic location. [Click here](#) for training on how to publicly display your clinic on Vaccines.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Information

Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

- CDC recommends [Staying Up to Date with vaccines](#) by getting additional doses of vaccine when eligible for optimal protection against COVID-19.
- At this time the technical definition of “fully vaccinated” – two doses of an mRNA vaccine or one dose of the J&J vaccine – has not changed. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after they have received their primary series.
- [Children ages 5–11 with a weakened immune system](#) can get an *additional dose* (3rd dose) of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine 28 days after their second shot.
- Now [everyone 12 and older should get a booster](#) if they are eligible for the best possible protection against Omicron.
- Anyone who received a [Pfizer or Moderna primary series should get a booster 5 months after their second shot](#).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA’s chart can be useful for helping patients understand when and which boosters are eligible. • Immunocompromised individuals who received mRNA vaccines became eligible for an additional primary dose of an mRNA vaccine on August 13, 2021. These individuals are now eligible for a booster or fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine after 3 months. • CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all people with a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.
<p>Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines</p>	<p>You should 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)</p> <p>Tips for Communicating the Benefits of Influenza Vaccine during COVID-19</p>
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information</p>	
<p>Expiration Extensions</p>	<p>Pfizer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA extended shelf-life for Pfizer Pediatric vaccine (Orange cap, 5-11 YO, diluent required) and Adol/Adult Tris (Gray Cap, age 12+, no diluent) to 9 months from date of manufacture when stored in an ultra-cold freezer. This approval may be found at Healthcare Providers for 5-11 years of age, orange cap (must dilute) (fda.gov); Healthcare Providers for 12 years of age and older, gray cap (no dilution) (fda.gov)) and takes effect immediately. This extension applies to frozen (ULT) inventories only. Date of expiration always falls on the last day of the month <p>Moderna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA authorized an extension of the shelf life for certain lots of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. REMEMBER: vials must be maintained in the frozen state for the extension to be applicable (extension does not apply to thawed vials) • Look up expiration date by scanning QR code located on the carton or use the company’s expiration date lookup feature on its website. • Visit CDC's Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date webpage and complete the registration form to request access or contact IISInfo@cdc.gov.
<p>Report Vaccine Temperature Excursions and Wastage</p>	<p>Report vaccine temperature excursions and vaccines wasted to the Helpdesk by following the prompts and submitting a ticket.</p> <p>When reporting expired doses to the Helpdesk, please select the “Report Vaccine Wastage” ticket option, then select “Other” as the</p>

	wastage reason and type “Expiration” in the text box when prompted. Please make sure that inventory is updated in Vaccine Finder, VAMS, or CT WiZ as appropriate.
CT WiZ	
CT WiZ Vaccine Inventory Management	CVP Vaccine Inventory Management (ct.gov) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderna Inventory and Booster Adjustments in CT WiZ • Moderna Wastage Reporting in CT WiZ
Ensure Best Practice by Checking CT WiZ Before Vaccinating	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
COVID-19 SMART Health Card	<p>The COVID-19 vaccination record SMART Health Card / QR code is available in the CT WiZ Immunization Information System (IIS) and the CT WiZ Public Portal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipients can access their own records by using the CT WiZ Public Portal. For security, this public portal uses ‘two-factor authentication’ to verify identify. • If recipients require support with accessing their vaccination record, they can complete the online request form or call our Immunization Program phone 860-509-7929 during business hours. <p>For FAQs, visit: CT WiZ Access My Immunization Record. This webpage has been updated with new FAQs about the SMART Health Card.</p> <p>Tip for Clinics: Ensuring your recipient’s contact information is current at each visit (such as cell phone and email) will be helpful</p>

	to enable recipients to access their own (or their minor child's) record in the CT WiZ Public Portal.
Replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards	<i>Recommendation:</i> 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 (<i>note: these should not be posted on your website</i>). Large type print cards are also available via pdf.
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.
CDC Resource Links	
<p>COVID-19 clinical materials, including product-specific trainings, guidance and infographics, are here: COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical and Professional Resources CDC</p> <p>COVID-19 Vaccines</p> <p>Different COVID-19 Vaccines</p> <p>Quick Reference Guide</p> <p>Product Information Guide for COVID-19 Vaccines and Ancillary Kits/Associated Products (11/3)</p> <p>The Ancillary Redistribution Gadget for Healthcare (ARGH) Tool (11/4)</p> <p>Vaccine Safety</p> <p>Enroll Your Dependent in v-safe</p> <p>COVID-19 Science Brief: Infection vs Vaccine Induced Immunity</p> <p>COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Research</p> <p>Vaccine Administration</p> <p>Vaccine Administration Resource Library CDC Includes information Vaccine administration e-learn with CE for pharmacists, infographics for identifying injection sites, short video demonstration injection and holding children.</p> <p>Pink book: Vaccine Administration CDC includes strategies to decrease anxiety and procedural pain.</p>	

[COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series | CDC.](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

[Science Brief: Evidence Used to Update the List of Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19](#)

[Quick Conversation Guide on COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#)

[Resources to Promote the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children & Teens](#)

[Using the COVID-Vac Tool to Assess Your COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Staffing and Operations Needs](#)

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

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

For the COVID-19 webpage, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

If you would like to unsubscribe from these communications, please send an email to Dph.immunizations@ct.gov with the subject line “Unsubscribe from COVID-19 Program communications”.