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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 1:15 PM

**Subject:** COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Provider Bulletin, Week of January 17, 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](#).*

We appreciate 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 who [stay up-to-date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.

- Please note, [immunocompromised individuals](#) who received mRNA vaccines became eligible for an [additional primary dose](#) of an mRNA vaccine on August 13, 2021. On January 13, 2022, these individuals became eligible for a booster or fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine; mRNA vaccines are the preferred at this time.
  - Please ensure that these high-risk individuals are not turned away. If your scheduling platform includes vaccine history logic, ensure that it is updated to reflect this group.
  - If you provide care for immunocompromised individuals, please send a message to those patients informing them that they are recommended a booster dose starting at 5 months after completion of the primary series/third dose of an mRNA vaccine.
- **Please note, it is required by CDC to update your inventory daily on [Vaccines.gov](#) so your clinic listings remain up to date. If you accept “all comers”, confirm that you are listed as a public site so that your clinic is searchable on the site by the public.**
- Remember if you want to refer patients out for COVID-19 vaccination, information is on our web site [here](#).
- **It’s not too late to get your flu shot!** Connecticut flu cases haven’t peaked this influenza season. The predominant stain so far this season is Type A-H3N2, accounting for 86% of all reported flu tests. There are early signs that flu vaccination uptake is down this season compared to last. Providers should continue to recommend and co-administer flu vaccine as people come in for COVID-19 boosters. Visit [CT DPH Seasonal Influenza Statistics Webpage](#) for weekly updates.

If you have COVID-19 vaccination information posted on your websites, please make sure it is up to date with all the latest recommendations. Additionally, please be sure your scheduled clinics and any other general COVID-19 information also remains up to date.

## UPDATES

### Recent updates to CDC's COVID-19 websites

- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination in Children](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)
- [Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration](#)
- [v-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry](#)
- [Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

## 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](#).

<b>Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CDC recommends <a href="#">Staying Up to Date with vaccines</a> by getting additional doses of vaccine when eligible for optimal protection against COVID-19.</li><li>• Staying up to date means that people should receive all COVID-19 vaccine doses they are eligible for at the appropriate intervals, which includes <a href="#">additional doses</a> for individuals who are immunocompromised and <a href="#">booster doses</a>. This ensures that an individual has the highest level of protection against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.</li><li>• At this time the technical definition of “fully vaccinated” – two doses of an mRNA vaccine or one dose of the J&amp;J vaccine – has not changed. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after they have received their primary series.</li><li>• <a href="#">Children ages 5–11 with a weakened immune system</a> can get an <i>additional dose</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> dose) of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine 28 days after their second shot.</li><li>• Now <a href="#">everyone 12 and older should get a booster</a> if they are eligible for the best possible protection against Omicron.</li><li>• Anyone who received a <a href="#">Pfizer or Moderna primary series should get a booster 5 months after</a> their second shot.</li><li>• FDA's <a href="#">chart</a> can be useful for helping patients understand when and which boosters are eligible.</li></ul>
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<p><b>Transition to new Adult Pfizer Tris-Sucrose Formulation</b></p>	<p>CDC is transitioning to a new Pfizer adolescent/adult formulation beginning mid-December (click <a href="#">here</a> for side by side comparison). The new formulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Does not require diluent</b> for mixing at administration sites;</li><li>• May be stored at 2-8°C (36-46°F) for up to 10-weeks;</li><li>• <b>Should never be stored at standard freezer temperatures;</b></li><li>• Direct shipped vaccine from Pfizer will have a <b>minimum dose order of 300;</b></li><li>• Can be used on <b>individuals 12 years of age and older;</b> and</li><li>• The vials will have a <b>gray cap;</b></li><li>• As required by CDC, Connecticut will distribute all existing PBS formulations (1170 and 450 dose packs) to providers prior to distributing the new Tris Sucrose Adult formulation.</li><li>• To avoid mistakes during this period of transition when both products may be in circulation, these products should not be offered/administered at the same time (same clinic).</li></ul>
<p><b>Pfizer 6hr Label Correction</b></p>	<p>Some labels for the Pfizer pediatric products read discard after 6 hours post dilution. This information is outdated. The FDA approved the vaccine for discarding 12 hours after dilution. This updated information is printed in the EUA and Fact Sheets as follows:</p> <p><i>“After dilution, the vial should be held between 2°C to 25°C (35°F to 77°F). Vials should be discarded 12 hours after dilution. Vial labels and cartons may state that a vial should be discarded 6 hours after the first puncture. The information in this Fact Sheet supersedes the number of hours printed on vial labels and cartons.”</i></p>

<p><b>How to update your information in Vaccine Finder/Vaccines.gov</b></p>	<p>COVID-19 vaccine inventory counts must be reported to Vaccine Finder daily (<i>required</i>). <b>This is required, regardless of whether your clinic is set as publicly displaying or private.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> for instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you need to make updates to your primary point of contact for Vaccine Finder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Please update <a href="#">CT WiZ</a> 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. <a href="#">Click here</a> for the CT WiZ training.</li> <li>○ Once completed, a registration link will be sent to the new contact from the CDC. If you do not receive this link, please email <a href="mailto:CARS_HelpDesk@cdc.gov">CARS_HelpDesk@cdc.gov</a> to request they resend the registration link.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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.’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If you select the option to report for ‘all clinics’ under your organization, only your primary vaccine coordinator contact will receive a registration link.</li> <li>○ If you select the option to report ‘individually’, your back-up vaccine coordinator will also receive a registration link.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>If you choose to publicly display your clinic on Vaccines.gov (<i>optional</i>), <b>please note that the shipping address listed in CT WiZ is what will be displayed on Vaccines.gov</b> as your clinic location. <a href="#">Click here</a> for training on how to publicly display your clinic on Vaccines.gov.</p>
<p><b>Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines</b></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. (<a href="#">CDC   Interim Clinical Considerations: Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines</a>)</p> <p><a href="#">Tips for Communicating the Benefits of Influenza Vaccine during COVID-19</a></p>
<p><b>CT WiZ Vaccine Inventory Management</b></p>	<p><a href="#">CVP Vaccine Inventory Management (ct.gov)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderna Inventory and Booster Adjustments in CT WiZ</li> <li>• Moderna Wastage Reporting in CT WiZ</li> </ul>

**Pfizer Expiration Extension**

FDA has approved a shelf-life extension for the Pfizer Pediatric vaccine (Orange cap, 5-11 YO, diluent required) and the soon to be available Adol/Adult Tris (Gray Cap, age 12+, no diluent). 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.**

<b>Printed Manufacturing Date</b>	<b>9-Month Expiry Date*</b>
06/2021	Feb. 28, 2022
07/2021	Mar. 31, 2022
08/2021	Apr. 30, 2022
09/2021	May 31, 2022
10/2021	Jun. 30, 2022
11/2021	July. 31, 2022
12/2021	Aug. 31, 2022
01/2022	Sept. 30, 2022
02/2022	Oct. 31, 2022

\*Date of expiration always falls on the last day of the month

<p><b>Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Extension and New Lot Numbers</b></p>	<p>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)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look up expiration date by scanning QR code located on the carton or use the company’s <a href="#">expiration date lookup feature</a> on its website.</li> <li>• Visit <a href="#">CDC's Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date</a> webpage and complete the registration form to request access or contact <a href="mailto:IISInfo@cdc.gov">IISInfo@cdc.gov</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Report Vaccine Temperature Excursions and Wastage</b></p>	<p><b>Report vaccine temperature excursions and vaccines wasted to the <a href="#">Helpdesk</a></b> by following the prompts and submitting a ticket.</p> <p>When reporting expired doses to the <a href="#">Helpdesk</a>, please select the “Report Vaccine Wastage” ticket option, then select “Other” as the 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.</p>
<p><b>COVID-19 SMART Health Card</b></p>	<p>The COVID-19 vaccination record SMART Health Card / QR code is available in the CT WiZ Immunization Information System (IIS) and the <a href="#">CT WiZ Public Portal</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recipients can access their own records by using the CT WiZ <a href="#">Public Portal</a>. For security, this public portal uses ‘two-factor authentication’ to verify identify.</li> <li>• If recipients require support with accessing their vaccination record, they can complete the <a href="#">online request form</a> or call our Immunization Program phone 860-509-7929 during business hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>For FAQs, visit:</b> <a href="#">CT WiZ Access My Immunization Record</a>. This webpage has been updated with new FAQs about the SMART Health Card.</p> <p><b>Tip for Clinics:</b> Ensuring your recipient’s contact information is current at each visit (<b>such as cell phone and email</b>) will be helpful to enable recipients to access their own (or their minor child’s) record in the CT WiZ Public Portal.</p>
<p><b>Replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards</b></p>	<p><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 <a href="mailto:DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov">DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov</a> 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.</p>

<p><b>Upcoming Clinic Trainings and Office Hours</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CoVP Update -- next meeting this Wednesday January 26</b> Provides CoVP Vaccinating Providers updates on the CoVP Program and Q&amp;A with DPH staff. <b>Every other Wednesday</b> 9-10am; Join: <a href="#">CoVP Office Hours</a></li> <li>• The <b>CoVP Enrollment Office Hours</b> Provides information about the CoVP enrollment process in CT WiZ and Q&amp;A with DPH staff. <b>Mondays</b> 12-12:30pm; Join: <a href="#">CoVP CT WiZ Enrollment Office Hours</a></li> <li>• <b>Vaccine Storage and Handling Assessment</b> For clinics who completed CoVP enrollment and received an invite to attend. <b>Tuesdays</b> 10-11am and 1-2pm &amp; <b>Thursdays</b> 1-2pm; <b>By invitation Only</b></li> <li>• <b>VAMS &amp; CT WiZ Live Helpdesk Office Hours</b> Clinics can ask questions about VAMS and CT WiZ functionality to DPH staff. <b>Tuesdays</b> 9-10am; Join: <a href="#">VAMS Live Helpdesk Office Hours</a></li> </ul> <p>Visit: <a href="#">VAMS Training</a> and <a href="#">CT WiZ Training</a> for enhancement release notes and training.</p>
<p><b>Ensure Best Practice by Checking CT WiZ Before Vaccinating</b></p>	<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"> <li>• If your clinic established bi-directional data exchange, you can query CT WiZ for the patient immunization record <a href="#">electronically from your EHR</a>.</li> <li>• Every CoVP enrolled clinic can <a href="#">look up the patient immunization record</a> in the <a href="#">CT WiZ user interface</a>. Those who signed the CoVP Provider Agreement and the primary and back-up vaccine coordinator already have CT WiZ access.</li> <li>• If your staff need access to CT WiZ, <a href="#">request a username</a> and select the ‘Clinic Access’ role. Access to CT WiZ is defined in <a href="#">EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13C</a>.</li> <li>• If you need support, please submit a <a href="#">Helpdesk ticket</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Post Notice to Patients About Reporting to CT WiZ at CoVP Clinics</b></p>	<p>All clinics enrolled in the CoVP must post the <a href="#">Notice to Patients About Reporting to CT WiZ</a>, 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reminder:</i> DPH cannot issue a CDC card to recipients. DPH can provide the immunization record from CT WiZ <a href="#">upon request</a> or recipients can access their own record in the <a href="#">CT WiZ Public Portal</a>.</li> </ul>

## Resources from the CDC

- [COVID-19 Pfizer Pediatric Tris-sucrose Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [COVID-19 Science Brief: Infection vs Vaccine Induced Immunity](#)
- [New CDC Study: Vaccination Offers Higher Protection than Previous COVID-19 Infection](#)
- [Families with Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Members](#)
- [Workplace Vaccination Program](#)
- [Enroll Your Dependent in v-safe](#)
- [Product Information Guide for COVID-19 Vaccines and Ancillary Kits/Associated Products](#) (11/3)
- [The Ancillary Redistribution Gadget for Healthcare \(ARGH\) Tool](#) a tool to assist providers redistributing vaccines to other CoVP clinics to identify the number of ancillary kit items needed to pack based on the number of requested doses (11/4)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Research](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Disabilities](#)
- [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.
- [Pinkbook: Vaccine Administration | CDC](#) includes strategies to decrease anxiety and procedural pain.
- Clinical Considerations: Vaccinating Adolescents at [COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series | CDC](#). There will be a similar one for younger children posted soon.
- COVID-19 clinical materials, including product-specific trainings, guidance and infographics, are here: [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical and Professional Resources | CDC](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Different COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)
- [COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging and Outreach Tools](#)



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

CT DPH Immunization Program

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