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Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 11:03 AM
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Provider Bulletin, Week of January 31, 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

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

Currently, there is NO recommendation for COVID-19 vaccination for children under 5 years of age.

Pfizer is currently evaluating a third dose (3 mcg dose at least two months after the second dose) in its ongoing clinical trials for children 6 month to under 5 years of age. If the results of the three-dose study prove successful they anticipate submitting for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the next few months. Pfizer's press release can be found [here](#). Pfizer's vaccine for children under 5 will still need an EUA, ACIP recommendation and CDC Director's approval before providers can begin administration to this age group.

In anticipation of the potential vaccine availability under EUA, [CDC has posted COVID-19 vaccine codes for preview](#). We are communicating this information to our providers so that they may begin preparation for this young pediatric age group. Please keep in mind that the following information is preliminary and is subject to change. Final planning assumptions will not be known until Pfizer submits an EUA.

We expect to have a different presentation, Pfizer [maroon cap](#), which will require diluent and have similar storage conditions as the current Pfizer gray and orange caps. A vial will contain 10 doses and there will be a 100-dose minimum order for direct shipment from the manufacturer. The Immunization Program has the ability to distribute vaccine to providers in smaller quantities

for orders of less than 100 doses.

Description	Formulations			Potential new formulation**
	Dilute Prior to Use	Do Not Dilute	Dilute Prior to Use	Dilute Prior to Use
Age Group	12 years and older	12 years and older	5 to <12 years*	TBD
Vial Cap Color	PURPLE 	GRAY (Coming soon) 	ORANGE 	Maroon Cap (pre-EUA) 
Dose	30 mcg	30 mcg	10 mcg	3 mcg
Injection Volume	0.3 mL	0.3 mL	0.2 mL	0.2 mL
Fill Volume (before dilution)	0.45 mL	2.25 mL	1.3 mL	?
Amount of Diluent* Needed per Vial	1.8 mL	NO DILUTION	1.3 mL	?
Doses per Vial	6 doses per vial (after dilution)	6 doses per vial	10 doses per vial (after dilution)	10 doses per vial (after dilution)
Storage Conditions				
ULT Freezer (-90°C to -60°C)	9 months	9 months	9 months	9 months
Freezer (-25°C to -15°C)	2 weeks	N/A	N/A	N/A
Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)	1 month	10 weeks	10 weeks	10 weeks

*Diluent: 0.9% sterile Sodium Chloride Injection, USP (non-bacteriostatic; DO NOT USE OTHER DILUENTS

** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/COVID-19-related-codes.html>

We will provide more information as it becomes available so that CoVP providers may continue their planning for this next age rollout. The Department will be sending out a Young Pediatric Planning Survey in the next few weeks to assess CoVP provider's ability and anticipated barriers to vaccinate this next age group.

Vaccination after COVID-19 Infection

With the high number of COVID-19 cases that we have recently experienced, please note that the [CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all people with a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection](#).

Guidance for people with a current infection: Defer vaccination of people with known current SARS-CoV-2 infection until the person has recovered from acute illness (if the person has symptoms) and until [criteria](#) have been met for them to discontinue isolation.

- Vaccination is recommended for everyone ages 5 years and older, regardless of a history of symptomatic or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- This includes people with prolonged post-COVID-19 symptoms and applies to primary series, additional primary doses, and booster doses.
- **You DO NOT need to wait 90 days after COVID-19 infection to vaccinate unless the person has received passive antibody therapy** (monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma). After receiving passive antibody products, COVID-19 vaccination should be temporarily deferred as a precautionary measure during the time period specified below to avoid potential interference of the product with vaccine-induced immune responses:
 - Passive antibody product used for post-exposure prophylaxis: Defer COVID-19 vaccination for 30 days
 - Passive antibody product used for COVID-19 treatment: Defer COVID-19 vaccination for 90 days

- Numerous immunologic [studies](#) have consistently shown that vaccination of individuals who were previously infected enhances their immune response, and growing epidemiologic [evidence](#) indicates that vaccination following infection further reduces the risk of subsequent infection, including in the setting of increased circulation of more infectious variants.

Vaccination of Immunocompromised Individuals

[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 dose of COVID-19 vaccine; mRNA vaccines are the preferred at this time.

- Note: this means some people are eligible for, and recommended to receive, [four](#) doses of COVID-19 vaccine depending on the product used to complete their primary series.
- 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.

Recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWRs)

- Effectiveness of a Third Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines in Preventing COVID-19 Hospitalization Among Immunocompetent and Immunocompromised Adults — United States, August–December 2021. Link [here](#).
- Trends in Disease Severity and Health Care Utilization During the Early Omicron Variant Period Compared with Previous SARS-CoV-2 High Transmission Periods — United States, December 2020–January 2022. Link [here](#).

Recent updates to CDC's COVID-19 websites

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Long-term Care Residents](#)
- [Reporting COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical & Professional Resources](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support](#)
- [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine \(Gray Cap\) Age 12 and Over](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine \(Purple Cap\) Age 12 and Over](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech \(COMIRNATY\) COVID-19 Vaccine Questions](#)
- [The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

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](#).

Upcoming Clinic Trainings and Office Hours	<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 9-10am; 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>
How to update your information in Vaccine Finder/Vaccines.gov	<p>COVID-19 vaccine inventory counts must be reported to Vaccine Finder daily (<i>required</i>). This is required, regardless of whether your clinic is set as publicly displaying or private. Click here for instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you need to make updates to your primary point of contact for Vaccine Finder:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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.’<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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.

	<p>If you choose to publicly display your clinic on Vaccines.gov (<i>optional</i>), 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.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Information</p>	
<p>Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC recommends Staying Up to Date with vaccines by getting additional doses of vaccine when eligible for optimal protection against COVID-19. • Staying up to date means that people should receive all COVID-19 vaccine doses they are eligible for at the appropriate intervals, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised and booster doses. This ensures that an individual has the highest level of protection against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. • 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 <i>additional dose</i> (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. • 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. 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.
<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

	<p>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> <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 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>CT WiZ</p>	
<p>CT WiZ Vaccine Inventory Management</p>	<p>CVP Vaccine Inventory Management (ct.gov)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderna Inventory and Booster Adjustments in CT WiZ • Moderna Wastage Reporting in CT WiZ
<p>Ensure Best Practice by Checking CT WiZ Before Vaccinating</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"> • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 to enable recipients to access their own (or their minor child's) record in the CT WiZ Public Portal.</p>
Replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards	<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 DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov and we will email you a pdf of the card for your clinic to print (<i>note: these <u>should not</u> be posted on your website</i>). Large type print cards are also available via pdf.</p>
Post Notice to Patients About Reporting to CT WiZ at CoVP Clinics	<p>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.</p>
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different COVID-19 Vaccines Quick Reference Guide Product Information Guide for COVID-19 Vaccines and Ancillary Kits/Associated Products (11/3) The Ancillary Redistribution Gadget for Healthcare (ARGH) Tool (11/4) <p>Vaccine Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll Your Dependent in v-safe COVID-19 Science Brief: Infection vs Vaccine Induced Immunity COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Research <p>Vaccine Administration</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.
- [Pink book: Vaccine Administration | CDC](#) includes strategies to decrease anxiety and procedural pain.
- [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”.