

From: CTDPHHealth_Alert_Network@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>
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Subject: COVID Vaccine Provider Bulletin Week of July 12, 2021



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID Vaccine Provider Bulletin

Week of July 12, 2021

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

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

UPDATES

Updates regarding vaccine authorization

Moderna adolescent EUA: The Moderna Adolescent EUA for vaccinating adolescents aged 12 through 17 against COVID-19 is expected in **mid- to late July**.

Boosters: No boosters are recommended at this time. You can see a recent joint statement from the CDC and FDA [here](#). CDC stated efforts will continue to document how well COVID-19 vaccines are working including the protection they offer against new COVID-19 variants. Studies are ongoing to determine whether or when boosters shots may be needed, but currently, there are not enough data available to support the recommendation of boosters. More information is available from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices from the June meeting [here](#).

Pfizer approval: Pfizer is seeking full FDA approval for its COVID-19 vaccine. A decision is not expected until after August.

The federal public health emergency declaration will likely be in place through 2024

The attached letter, signed by CDC COVID-19 Emergency Response leadership, was circulated to public health partners as a reminder that the federal public health emergency (PHE) declaration and the Declaration, as amended, authorized by the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act are still in effect and will remain in place through 2024. Qualified persons identified/covered by PREP Act to administer vaccines will still be covered regardless of whether a state has an emergency declaration in place.

Check your listing and report/ensure inventory is correct

Please remember to check your listing at covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov. Please make sure that the types of vaccines you are offering are up to date. If any corrections or updates are needed,

complete the update form at: <https://uwc.211ct.org/contact/request-agency-update/>. Please also remember to update your inventory on hand daily with [VaccineFinder](#).

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](#).

- **The Fact Sheets for the COVID mRNA vaccines** have been updated with myocarditis and pericarditis statements.

[Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)

- **COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination**

- While it is uncertain what might happen this upcoming flu season, relaxed COVID-19 mitigation measures will likely result in the resumption of seasonal flu virus circulation.
- Reduced population immunity due to lack of flu virus activity since March 2020 could result in an early and possibly severe flu season. Also, co-circulation of flu, SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), and other respiratory viruses like RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) could place a renewed high burden on the health care system.
- Please remind your patients of the importance of getting an annual flu vaccine this fall.
- When to Get Vaccinated -- Additional guidance around the ideal timing of vaccination for different groups of people has been proposed by ACIP for inclusion in the upcoming Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza With Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)—United States, 2021-2022 Influenza Season. Adoption of these changes is pending approval by the CDC Director and publication in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).
 - Can flu and COVID-19 vaccines be given at the same time during the upcoming fall and winter? According to CDC “COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines may be administered on the same day, as well as any interval without respect to timing” (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/summary-interim-clinical-considerations.pdf>).

Vaccine inventory and ordering

CoVP providers can continue to place orders of any quantity in our ordering portal, as long as it is in multiples of the vial size for the appropriate product. Any orders that are less than the minimum shipment size will be filled by in-state transfer.

The pause on J&J shipments continues for the foreseeable future. Providers may still request doses and we will also fill those by in-state transfer as we have sufficient quantity of doses on the ground. We appreciate the assistance of COVID-19 vaccine providers across Connecticut in supporting these transfers.

CMS is offering *We Can Do This* COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign Toolkit Webinars

The HHS [We Can Do This](#) campaign is a national initiative working hand in hand with trusted leaders and community organizations to continue to build confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and get more people vaccinated. This campaign offers tailored resources and toolkits for stakeholders to use to provide COVID-19 vaccine information to at-risk populations.

Report expired vaccine

Please promptly report any expired vaccine to the CT WiZ [Helpdesk](#). Keep in mind that there are no negative consequences for reporting waste, and it will not negatively impact future allocations. CT DPH recognizes that unused expired vaccine is a normal part of this phase of the vaccination program.

Please update your COVID Vaccine location listings

As providers consolidate schedules and locations, please check and update your listings on covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov. If any corrections are needed, please email Caroline.Hou@ct.gov.

Please ensure the following are correct: vaccine type(s) offered; operating hours noted in the details area; walk-up appointment availability. Locations with walk up appointments are now indicated on the finder. If you have plans to close a clinic location, please let us know.

Replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards

Clinics are allowed to issue replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards to their vaccine recipients, should they contact you when their card is lost or needs a correction. *DPH can issue the immunization record from CT WiZ, but cannot issue a card to recipients.*

- If your clinic needs additional CDC COVID Vaccination Cards, contact Immunizations@ct.gov and we will email you a pdf of the card for your clinic to print (*note: these cannot be posted on your website.*) Large type print cards are also available, via pdf.

CT WiZ Reports Manual (June 2021) posted at: [CT WiZ Patient Management](#) includes a NEW Report for providers “COVID-19 Dose 1, 2, and Series Complete Report”.

Upcoming Clinic Trainings and Office Hours

- **CoVP Update**
Provides CoVP Vaccinating Providers updates on the CoVP Program and Q&A with DPH staff. **Every other Wednesday** 9:00am-10:00am; Join: [CoVP Office Hours](#)
- **CoVP CT WiZ Enrollment Office Hours**
Provides information about the CoVP enrollment process in CT WiZ and Q&A with DPH staff. **Mondays & Thursdays** 12:00pm-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 & Thursdays** 10:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-2:00pm; **By invitation Only**
- **VAMS & CT WiZ Live Helpdesk Office Hours**
Clinics can ask questions about VAMS and CT WiZ functionality to DPH staff. **Tuesdays** 9:00am 10:00am; Join: [VAMS Live Helpdesk Office Hours](#)

Visit: [VAMS Training](#) and [CT WiZ Training](#) for enhancement release notes and training.