

**From:** [noreply-dphimmunizations@ct.gov](mailto:noreply-dphimmunizations@ct.gov) <[noreply@everbridge.net](mailto:noreply@everbridge.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 1:39 PM

**Subject:** COVID Vaccine Provider Bulletin Week of July 26, 2021 - resending with attachments



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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**

#### **July 22 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting**

The ACIP met on July 22 to discuss [Guillain-Barré Syndrome \(GBS\)](#) and additional COVID-19 vaccine doses for the immunocompromised. Slides are available [here](#).

No votes were taken, but evidence was presented showing that the benefit of the vaccines (both mRNA and J&J) outweighs the very rare risk of GBS. There was discussion about immunocompromised individuals and the potential need for a third dose of vaccine, but there was not enough data for the ACIP to vote at this time.

#### **Extension of J&J shelf life expected soon**

Please continue to monitor vaccine expiration dates. It is likely that J&J vaccine supply that is currently scheduled to expire in early August will have its expiration date extended again. Please continue to store the vaccine under proper refrigerated conditions.

J&J has determined that at proper refrigerated storage conditions, the vaccine appears to be very stable across all lots tested. The company is cautiously optimistic that 6 months total refrigerated storage will be authorized. The company has informed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that they are hoping to have an extension of the expiration for refrigerated storage of the vaccine to 6 months by early August.

#### **Moderna 10 dose vials no longer available**

The CDC has informed us that 10 dose vials of Moderna will no longer be available. After next week, you will only be able to order Moderna in 14 dose vials.

#### **Combatting Misinformation**

We are continuously developing and sharing resources to assist you in combatting misinformation. Please see attached “one pagers” about COVID-19 vaccines and the infertility myth, and COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy. Additional resources for patient communication about vaccine can be found on [our web site](#) (including links to the CDC web site resources).

## **COVID Vaccine Clinics Can Receive Concert Tickets to use as Incentives**

As part of Connecticut's "Rock the Shot" initiative ([ct.gov/RockTheShot](https://ct.gov/RockTheShot)), DPH can provide concert tickets to COVID-19 vaccine providers to offer as incentives at upcoming vaccine clinics. Providers who can use these tickets as incentives to help support outreach and promotion of COVID vaccination to individuals in communities with low vaccine coverage should contact [Jeffrey.sload@ct.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.sload@ct.gov) with the number of tickets you would like, which concerts you are interested in, and how you plan to distribute the tickets.

There are a limited number of tickets and so we will do our best to accommodate requests. Tickets can only be awarded to Connecticut residents aged 18 and older, and providers will be responsible for collecting the names and contact information of ticket recipients.

Please see below for a list of concert tickets that can be provided.

- Dustin Lynch 8/4 @ Mohegan Sun Arena
- Straight No Chaser 8/8 @ Mohegan Sun Arena
- Thomas Rhett 8/21 @ Xfinity Theatre Hartford
- Big and Rich 9/1 @ Mohegan Sun Arena
- Trippie Redd 9/8 @ Bridgeport Amphitheatre
- NF 9/29 @ Bridgeport Amphitheatre
- Rod Wave 10/1 @ Bridgeport Amphitheatre

## **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](#).

### **Thermal shippers and Pfizer vaccine**

Pfizer is running short of COVID-19 vaccine shipper boxes and Controlant temperature monitors because of the smaller packaging (450 doses vs 1170 doses) requires more shipper boxes and Controlant temperature monitors to deliver the same number of doses.

You can assist with this shortage by returning your shippers and Controlant temperature monitors as soon as possible. Please check the shippers to verify they are completely empty before returning them. Please do not return vaccine or ancillary products in the shippers.

### **Recent COVID-19 vaccine related publications**

**JAMA Network Publication - Mandatory SARS-CoV-2 Vaccinations in K-12 Schools, Colleges/Universities, and Businesses:** [Mandatory vaccination has historically served as a tool to reach and sustain high immunization coverage and to prevent transmission in K-12 schools, colleges/universities, and health care facilities.](#)

**Grant Opportunity:** [Promoting Vaccine Confidence in Local Communities through Partnership with Regional Health Offices](#)

Federal Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity that provides funding for eligible organizations to establish partnerships with community stakeholders to increase vaccine confidence among populations with low vaccination rates for children and adults, including rural and under-resourced communities. (This is not limited to Covid vaccine.)

Eligible organizations include but are not limited to: state and local governments, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, American Indian/Alaska Native/Native American organizations, and any other organizations serving under-vaccinated and under-resourced communities, as well as minority-serving or other organizations--including public health departments, community organizations, academic institutions, professional or trade organizations, and immunization coalitions--that work with populations with low vaccination rates (e.g., African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, people living with disabilities, etc.).

As part of our ongoing work to advance vaccine equity, DPH would like to encourage Connecticut-based applicants for this funding opportunity. Questions about the grant can be directed to Betsy Rosenfeld at [betsy.rosenfeld@hhs.gov](mailto:betsy.rosenfeld@hhs.gov). Closing Date is August 17, 2021.

### **CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force maintains a Communication and Education Product Inventory**

- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Resources for Jurisdictions, Clinics, and Organizations](#)
- [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program: Vaccine Channel Portfolio by Jurisdiction](#)
- [About the National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Resources Page](#)
- [GBS FAQ - Public Health Communication Collaborative](#)

### **The COVID-19 Vaccination Community Features**

One way CDC is contributing to vaccination efforts is by promoting the work happening in communities across the country through [COVID-19 Vaccine Community Features](#). Each week CDC will feature stories that celebrate the people behind the vaccination program and give other communities ideas to improve their programs. Send stories you would like us to feature to [ISDcomm@cdc.gov](mailto:ISDcomm@cdc.gov). Include "CVCF Submission" in the subject, a summary of your story, and contact information. We will review the suggestion and send follow up instructions.

### **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](https://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](#).

### **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.

### **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 [DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.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.

### **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.