

From: CTDPHHealth_Alert_Network@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:50 AM
Subject: COVID Vaccine Provider Bulletin Week of July 4, 2021



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

- **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](#)

- **New from MMWR:** [Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine After Reports of Myocarditis Among Vaccine Recipients: Update from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, June 2021](#). In this report:
 - On June 23, 2021, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices concluded that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination to individual persons and at the population level clearly outweighed the risks of myocarditis after vaccination.
 - Continued use of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in all recommended age groups will prevent morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 that far exceed the number of cases of myocarditis expected. Information regarding the risk for myocarditis with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines should be disseminated to providers to share with vaccine recipients.
- **To all CT WiZ users (user interface and EHR interface):**
 - On Tuesday 7/06/2021 CT WiZ will be down between 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm for a new release. Please plan your entry and electronic querying accordingly.
 - **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”
- Recent updates to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s *Communication and Education Product Inventory* include:
 - [Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety](#)
 - [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety](#)

- [Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Allergies](#)
- [Vaccines for COVID-19](#)
- **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>).

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](#).

Vaccine inventory and ordering

CDC has announced that COVID-19 vaccine has been taken off allocation. This means the supply of vaccine has increased to a level where they do not feel the need to limit the amount available to states for ordering. Additionally, they will not be shipping the Pfizer 1170 trays. The amounts available for shipment are Pfizer 450 dose trays, and Moderna 10 dose and 14 dose vials with a minimum order of 100 doses. 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.

Vaccine Inventory - Expiration Date Updates

In VAMS 5.1 release, the 'clinic admin' now have the ability to update the expiration date by editing the Inventory record. Additionally, CDC guidelines have extended J&J shelf life from 3-months to 4.5 months. VAMS has accounted for this by extending expiration dates by 45 days through a backend push completed on 6/22/21. These changes will not retrigger vaccinations that have already been captured.

Statement Following CDC ACIP Meeting

A statement was released on June 23rd following the ACIP meeting and discussion regarding the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination in adolescents. The statement was co-signed by the CDC, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and several leading health professional organizations. The statement acknowledged the rare potential for myocarditis as a side effect of COVID-19 vaccination and reiterated that the benefits and protection afforded by the vaccine justify continued recommendation to vaccinate young people with the appropriate available products. You can access the full statement [here](#).

[CDC: Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

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

If your clinic needs additional CDC COVID Vaccination Cards, contact DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov and we can email you a pdf of the card for your clinic to print (*note: these cannot be posted on your website.*) Clinics are allowed to issue replacement cards to vaccine recipients, should they contact your clinic when their card is lost or needs a correction. 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 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.