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Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 12:57 PM
Subject: COVID Vaccine Provider Bulletin Week of June 28, 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

Holiday Shipping Delays

McKesson and Pfizer will be closed on Monday July 5th in observance of the July 4th holiday. No shipments will arrive for either distributor on Monday July 5th. Pfizer will resume deliveries on Tuesday July 6th. McKesson will not resume deliveries until Wednesday July 7th.

Providers who need vaccine before the shipping delays should reach out to Patricia.Firmender@ct.gov no later than 12pm on Tuesday June 29th to ensure delivery by the end of this week.

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' will 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.

CoVP Office Hours have moved to every other week

CoVP Office Hours have moved to every other week. The next meeting will be this week, on June 30 at 9am. If you ever have any questions, especially new providers just getting started with the COVID Vaccine Program, please reach out to the Immunization Program at Dph.immunizations@ct.gov or by phone at 860 509-7929.

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](#)

MMWR COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Adults — United States, December 14, 2020–May 22, 2021

The CDC released an MMWR that reviewed vaccine coverage data through May 22, 2021. This MMWR affirmed the leading position that Connecticut has nationally in vaccination coverage. As of the time period reviewed in the MMWR, Connecticut had the third-highest rate of full vaccination among individuals 18-years and older nationally. Thank you to all of our COVID Vaccine providers who have made our program so successful.

Additional key findings from the MMWR include: By May 22, 2021, 57% of people 18 years or older in the U.S. had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine; coverage was highest among people aged 65 and older (80%) and lowest among people aged 18–29 (38%). The weekly vaccination rate was lower over time among younger adults and has slowed in recent weeks for all ages. Outreach is critical for improving vaccination coverage among all age groups to reduce COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, especially among younger adults. Full report here: [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Adults, by Age Group — United States, December 14, 2020–May 22, 2021](#)

CDC published two MMWR's focused on COVID-19 vaccination intent. You can find the reports here:

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Intent among Adults Aged 18–39 Years— United States, March–May 2021](#)
- [Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Receipt of COVID-19 Vaccination and Intent to Definitely Get Vaccinated, Adults aged ≥18 Years — Household Pulse Survey, United States, April 28–May 10, 2021](#)

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.

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](#).

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 CT WiZ and 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.