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**Sent:** Monday, November 29, 2021 12:26 PM

**Subject:** COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Provider Bulletin, Week of November 29



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Provider Bulletin, Week of November 29

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 of our communications are archived on our [web site](#).*

We appreciate everything that you are doing to continue our strong roll-out of the 5-11 COVID-19 vaccine as well as to promote and provide boosters. With the expanded eligibility for boosters, we want to encourage adults across Connecticut to receive a COVID-19 booster before the end of the year. Please support our outreach efforts – reach out to your patients and communities! The Public Health Communications Collaborative’s Updated toolkit on [COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging and Outreach Tools](#) may be helpful in these endeavors.

We know that many of you are closely monitoring the news regarding the Omicron variant. At this time, we do not have meaningful data about the performance of the mRNA vaccines against the Omicron variant, but we will continue to update you as we learn more. We continue to encourage booster adoption as an effective tool to be ready for a potential Omicron wave, should this occur.

### **UPDATES**

#### **COVID-19 vaccine orders**

After the holiday pause, deliveries will resume today (Monday, Nov. 29). Requests that would typically be filled via redistribution will continue to be filled per the usual timeline as in-state supply allows. **Requests for all COVID-19 vaccine doses should be submitted in the [ordering portal](#) by noon on Tuesdays.**

#### **Eastern Connecticut Provider Call**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Immunization Programs is inviting healthcare practitioners across Eastern Connecticut to a lunchtime conversation on Friday December 3.

We recognize that Eastern Connecticut currently has the highest rates of COVID-19 incidence, as well as relatively low vaccination rates, compared to the rest of the state. We would like to invite practitioners to a forum where best practices and lessons will be exchanged and where we can seek your input on how the Department of Public Health can strengthen its work in Eastern Connecticut.

Research has shown that vaccine hesitancy is best addressed by clinicians and healthcare professionals whom individuals know and trust. We look forward to your ideas, experiences, and feedback.

**Meeting Info:** Connecticut Dept of Public Health call with Eastern CT Healthcare Practitioners

**Time:** Dec 3, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84905734245?pwd=bzdLTyt1OXZuSVBFNERLR2RRQnV1dz09>

Note: Participant lines will be limited, so please mark your calendars and join in with others in your practice if possible.

**Meeting ID: 849 0573 4245**

**Passcode: 401337**

**One tap mobile**

**+13017158592,,84905734245# US (Washington DC)**

**+13126266799,,84905734245# US (Chicago)**

Dial by your location or find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84905734245>

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

**New and updated resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States \(11/19\)](#)
- Standing orders (11/23): [Moderna](#); [Pfizer](#)
- [CDC Rapid COVID-19 State of Vaccine Confidence Insights Report](#): insights report addressing vaccine confidence in COVID-19 Vaccine for children ages 5–11.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Instructions \(EUI\) Resources](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination in Children](#)
- [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#)
- [Quick Conversation Guide on COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#)

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

- [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in Children Aged 5–11 Years — United States, November 2021](#)
- [Influenza Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic — 11 U.S. Jurisdictions, September–December 2020](#)
- [JAMA Viewpoint: Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines: What Parents, Practitioners, and Policy Makers Need to Know](#)

### **Medical Updates & Immunization Site Training hosted by Pfizer Vaccines**

Held daily for all providers with a focus on Emergency Use Authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Children. In addition to medical updates, sessions will focus on the storage, handling, and administration for currently available vaccine presentations.

Please click on the links below to join the sessions at the designated times.\*

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Password</b>
<a href="#">Attendee link – Mon November 29 – 5 PM ET</a>	QyTP7aGsN37
<a href="#">Attendee link – Tues November 30 – 5 PM ET</a>	E32WwDagj2h
<a href="#">Attendee link – Wed December 1 – 12 PM ET</a>	h8tGJaxe56A
<a href="#">Attendee link – Thurs December 2 – 12 PM ET</a>	fgZsgRpf379
<a href="#">Attendee link – Fri December 3 – 12 PM ET</a>	rkMHiiMB223
<a href="#">Attendee link – Mon December 6 – 5 PM ET</a>	7TPd4QgG6kM
<a href="#">Attendee link – Tues December 7 – 5 PM ET</a>	5Q4fggcppc2
<a href="#">Attendee link – Wed December 8 – 12 PM ET</a>	kpRpN6Kk5P5
<a href="#">Attendee link – Thurs December 9 – 12 PM ET</a>	xmBqyuSr252
<a href="#">Attendee link – Fri December 10 – 12 PM ET</a>	ZnuC32Puqy5

### **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Extension and New Lot Numbers**

FDA authorized an extension of the shelf life for 78 new 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 [IIInfo@cdc.gov](mailto:IIInfo@cdc.gov).

## **National Influenza Vaccination Week Webinar – Improving Routine, Influenza, and COVID-19 Vaccination This Winter**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance for all individuals to be up-to-date on their routine vaccinations, as well as their annual influenza vaccine. Many children fell behind on routine vaccines and well-child visits during the pandemic. Routine, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccines are essential to helping children, families, and communities stay healthy.

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) provides healthcare workers and vaccination partners the opportunity to proactively communicate the potentially serious complications from influenza, the benefits of vaccination, and that there is still time to receive an influenza vaccine for this season if they haven't done so. Additionally, influenza vaccine can be given with a COVID-19 vaccine for patients who are eligible, including everyone 5 years and older. Both COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are needed this season. As long as influenza remains a potential public health threat, efforts to vaccinate and raise awareness about the importance of vaccination should continue throughout flu season to protect as many people as possible against flu.

Please join the Public Health Foundation (PHF) for a webinar featuring immunization experts from the CDC during [National Influenza Vaccination Week \(NIVW\)](#). Below, please find information about the event that you can share with your colleagues and in upcoming communications:

**Monday, December 6, 2021 from 2-3pm EST [Click Here to Register](#)**

### **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](#).*

### **Booster doses recommended for age 18+**

#### **For individuals who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)**

Everyone 18 and older is eligible to receive a booster dose 6 months after completion of the primary series under the EUA. Individuals age 50 and older and residents in long-term care settings age 18 and older SHOULD receive a booster dose. Individuals 18 through 49 MAY receive a booster dose based on individual benefits and risk. More information can be found [here](#). The CDC has updated its supporting materials to support these changes.

**The J&J and heterologous series recommendations remain the same:**

All individuals who received a J&J vaccine SHOULD receive a booster 2 months after the initial dose.

Both the FDA and CDC support individuals to receive a booster dose that is a different vaccine type than they originally received for their primary series if they choose. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Age	mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series		J&J COVID-19 vaccine primary series
	No risk factors	Resident of LTCF	
50 years	<b>Should</b> receive booster	<b>Should</b> receive booster	<b>Should</b> receive booster
18-49 years	<b>May</b> receive booster		

**Updated recommendations for people vaccinated outside of the United States and people who received COVID-19 vaccine as part of a clinical trial**

On Wednesday, CDC issued Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) and updated its [clinical considerations](#) to allow the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech to be given as an additional primary dose or booster dose to certain people who completed a vaccine primary series with certain COVID-19 vaccines that are not authorized or approved by the FDA. This ensures that eligible people who were vaccinated outside of the U.S. with these vaccines, or who received certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines through participation in some clinical trials, can get an additional primary dose or booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

**Guidance regarding eligibility verification for booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines**

As has always been the case during the COVID-19 vaccine roll out, the State of Connecticut wants to ensure that vaccine access is simple and straightforward for vaccine recipients. Providers should continue to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are readily available for individuals who seek them and that administration of a COVID-19 vaccine is medically appropriate and conducted in line with the ACIP guidelines.

*Ensuring patients receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the appropriate interval:*

Connecticut DPH recommends that providers have a procedure for ensuring that individuals receive their booster no sooner than the minimum recommended interval. This can be accomplished in one of several ways, in order of preference:

- Verify the vaccine information, including the brand and date(s) a patient received their previous COVID-19 vaccine doses using CT WiZ; or

- Review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccination Card, VAMS Certificate, CT WiZ Certificate, or other documentation of the recipient's vaccination record; or
- If neither of the above are possible, ask the patient for the vaccine brand(s) and dates of previous COVID-19 doses received during the scheduling process (and including logic in scheduling systems to ensure appropriate interval).

*Ensuring recommended individuals receive a COVID-19 booster:*

Connecticut DPH continues to support patient self-identification and attestation as a sufficient basis for confirming that an individual is within one of the categories for whom boosters are recommended.

*Additional considerations:*

DPH reminds providers that there is no residency requirement to receive COVID-19 vaccines and that identification (ID) is likewise not required. Although ID may be requested from the patient for purposes of billing, no individual should be turned away due to lack of ID and providers should endeavor to create a welcoming environment for people to seek COVID-19 vaccines.

### **Report a problem with ancillary kits**

If there are any issues identified with your ancillary kits, please call McKesson to report the issue and request a new kit:

McKesson Specialty Phone #: (833) 343 2703 Email: [COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com](mailto:COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com)

### **Pfizer 6hr Label Correction**

Labels on the Pfizer Pediatric (orange) vials were printed in the months prior to amendment of the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In anticipation of approval, the labels were printed, "Discard 6 hours after dilution." However, the FDA approved the vaccine for discarding 12 hours after dilution. This updated information is printed in the EUA and Fact Sheets as follows:

*"After dilution, the vial should be held between 2°C to 25°C (35°F to 77°F). Vials should be discarded 12 hours after dilution. Vial labels and cartons may state that a vial should be discarded 6 hours after the first puncture. The information in this Fact Sheet supersedes the number of hours printed on vial labels and cartons."*

We anticipate the label will eventually be updated, but please be aware that ALL Pfizer pediatric vaccine should be discarded 12 hours after dilution. Please make sure your staff are aware of this change to the Pfizer pediatric label.

### **VAMS Clinics**

- Clinics with scheduling appointments through VAMS should check their appointment reservation tiers. There is a **NEW feature** to add "groups" for appointments based on vaccine type and age group to restrict scheduling based on this (for example: giving appointment priority to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> doses vs booster doses.) [View our guide](#) on our VAMS Training webpage for assistance.

- **Reminder:** check your “Vaccine Products Offered” in your clinic set up and make sure the appropriate vaccine products are checked off that you are offering.

### **CT WiZ Update – SMART Health Card**

- In the CT WiZ Immunization Information System (IIS), there was a SMART Health Card / QR code on the bottom of the COVID-19 vaccination record. These were provided to recipients upon request. This has *temporarily* been removed for an update. Once this update is complete, the QR code will be added back onto the COVID-19 vaccination record in the CT WiZ IIS. This QR code will also be added to the COVID-19 vaccination record in the [CT WiZ Public Portal](#) soon after. FAQs on the [SMART Health Card QR code](#) will soon be posted on the [COVID-19 Vaccine \(ct.gov\)](#) in the ‘Knowledge Base’. *Stay tuned.*
  - **TIP:** Ensuring your recipients contact information is current (**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.
- **Reminder:** Recipients have a few ways to provide proof of vaccinations. Click here options: [What should I do if I have to provide proof of vaccination? \(ct.gov\)](#)

### **Clinic Locations and Vaccines.gov**

In order to make sure your clinic listings remain up to date, please make sure that you are registered, report your inventory counts to VaccineFinder daily, and select the option to make your clinic visible to the public (optional). For assistance, [click here](#).

### **Moderna Wastage Reporting in CT WiZ (simplified)**

Wastage should be calculated based on the number of people vaccinated. The information below is for a 10 dose vial, but the same logic holds for a 14 dose vial:

#### **If 10 or fewer people are vaccinated:**

- Calculate wastage as 10 minus the number of people vaccinated, regardless of whether the individuals were vaccinated with primary or booster doses.
- For instance, if 10 people are given booster doses, this would be considered 0 wastage.
- Similarly, if 5 people are given primary doses and 5 people are given booster doses, this is 0 wastage.

**If 8 people are vaccinated**, all with primary doses, this is 2 doses wasted. If 8 people are vaccinated, 4 with primary doses and 4 with booster doses, this is also 2 doses wasted.

#### **If >10 people are vaccinated:**

- Because the half dose booster allows for up to 20 doses to be drawn from a vial, you will need add in extra whole doses to increase your inventory on-hand to account for the extra doses administered. This will always be considered 0 wastage.

### **Pfizer Vaccine**

- Do your patients know if you are currently offering or planning to offer pediatric Pfizer vaccine? Please see the [“Call to Action” letter](#). We would love to see your messages

to patients/parents if you would share; these can be emailed to [immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:immunizations@ct.gov) subject "Message to patients".

- **Pediatric Pfizer vaccine dose extraction**

CDC has acknowledged that there is discrepancy in number of doses providers are able to extract from the pediatric Pfizer vaccine vials. The Pfizer pediatric vial is labeled as containing 10 doses per the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA); however, some providers are reporting they are able to extract only 9 doses, while others are reporting up to 13 doses. Efforts are underway to determine the source of this discrepancy. In the meantime, please note the maximum number of doses that should be extracted from a vial remains at 10 in accordance with the EUA.

- **Clinical Resources**

- [Administration Overview for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#) clinical education and training materials
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) link includes the following pediatric information: Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine to Persons 5 through 11 Years of Age; Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary form; Storage and Handling Summary; Storage and Handling labels; Vaccine Beyond Use Date guidance and labels; Transporting Vaccine for Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary or Off-Site Locations

### **Pediatric Pfizer vaccine storage and expiration**

Storage conditions for pediatric vaccine differ from the adult formulation. Please note that new Pfizer shippers will be used to support all direct ship pediatric orders. **These shippers should not be used for storage.**

Upon arrival, please follow Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) recommendations for storage of the Pfizer 5 through 11 years of age formulation and store it in an ultra-low freezer or refrigerator:

- Ultra-Low temperature freezer (-90°C to -60°C) for up to 6 months. Do NOT use vaccine stored at ultra-low temperatures longer than 6 months.
- Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C) for up to 10 weeks. Do NOT use vaccine stored at refrigerated temperatures longer than 10 weeks.
- Do NOT store in a standard freezer.

**Pfizer pediatric vials do not have a vaccine expiration date listed on them** —the date of manufacture is printed on the vial. The QR code on the box provides a link to the EUA Fact Sheet; Pfizer does not have a look up tool for vaccine expiration date. If vaccine is stored in ultra-cold storage, then the expiration date is 6 months from the manufacture date printed on the vial. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will have clinical materials to assist with tracking expiration and beyond-use dates posted soon.

### **Influenza vaccine**

- **Seqirus' Cell-Based Flu Vaccine Receives FDA Approval for Expanded Age Indication:** In October, [Seqirus received FDA approval](#) for an expanded age indication of Flucelvax® Quadrivalent, the first and only cell-based influenza vaccine in the US, for children as young as six months old. With this approval, [Flucelvax](#) is



now available to anyone in the U.S. who is eligible to receive a seasonal flu vaccine, including young children, who are at a higher risk of severe illness and complications from flu. (See more on [Cell-based influenza vaccines](#)).

### **Resources from the CDC**

- [COVID-19 Pfizer Pediatric Tris-sucrose Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [COVID-19 Science Brief: \*Infection vs Vaccine Induced Immunity\*](#)
- [New CDC Study: Vaccination Offers Higher Protection than Previous COVID-19 Infection](#)
- [Families with Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Members](#)
- [Workplace Vaccination Program](#)
- [Enroll Your Dependent in v-safe](#)
- [Product Information Guide for COVID-19 Vaccines and Ancillary Kits/Associated Products](#)(11/3)
- [The Ancillary Redistribution Gadget for Healthcare \(ARGH\) Tool](#) a tool to assist providers redistributing vaccines to other CoVP clinics to identify the number of ancillary kit items needed to pack based on the number of requested doses (11/4)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Research](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Disabilities](#)
- [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.
- [Pinkbook: Vaccine Administration | CDC](#) includes strategies to decrease anxiety and procedural pain.
- Clinical Considerations: Vaccinating Adolescents at [COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series | CDC](#). There will be a similar one for younger children posted soon.
- COVID-19 clinical materials, including product-specific trainings, guidance and infographics, are here: [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical and Professional Resources | CDC](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [booster shot webpage](#) for the public
- COCA Call: [Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC's Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Children 5–11 years old](#) (recording now available)
- COCA Call: [What Clinicians Need to Know about the Recent Updates to CDC's Recommendations for COVID-19 Boosters](#) (recording now available)
- [Different COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)

### **Information from Moderna about Booster Doses**

#### **Syringe Availability**

To assure providers have an adequate supply of 1 mL syringes to support extraction of booster doses (0.25 mL) from a Moderna 14 vial, CDC will begin shipping an additional Moderna 10 ancillary kit with all orders placed as of October 30. **When possible, please use 3 mL syringes for extraction of primary series doses to ensure you have an adequate supply of 1 mL syringes to support extraction of booster doses from a Moderna vial.** Do not puncture the vial stopper more than 20 times.

## Moderna Inventory and Booster Adjustments in CT WiZ

- All Moderna orders approved after 10/22 will receive double ancillary kit shipments with each order to support administration of booster doses at a “half dose” strength
- **Terminology** –Moderna products should continue to be referenced as “Moderna 10” and “Moderna 14”.
- Primary (0.5mL) and booster (0.25 mL) doses of Moderna are administered from the same multi-dose vial for 10 or 14 doses.
  - Therefore, you will need to adjust your inventory if you administer extra doses per a 10 or 14 dose vial.
  - Your inventory on-hand will need to be adjusted per vial based on how many additional doses were administered. Vaccine wastage will also need to be made per vial. Wastage is reported in whole doses.
- **How to make an inventory adjustment in CT WiZ:**
  - *Tip:* When administering vaccines, do not forget to track which type of dose (primary or booster) was extracted from each vial.
  - *Example:* You have a 14-dose vial and administered 20 doses (*because you can only puncture the cap a maximum of 20 times*), you make an inventory adjustment of 10 extra doses using the Reason code below and enter the Doses Adjustment of 4 whole doses wasted.
  - In CT WiZ, select Inventory – Vaccines – On-Hand – select Actions – select Adjustment:
    - select the **Reason code: Dose Count Variance Multi-Dose Vial** and
    - enter the **Doses Adjusted** (*as whole doses.*)
  - **For User Interface: How to document correct booster dosage administered in CT WiZ:**
    - In CT WiZ, find the patient – select Action – Add Vaccine – Create And Administer – Change **Dosage field to 25**
  - **For EHR vendors and senders: please be sure to include the correct dosage volume** (primary 0.5mL or add in the booster 0.25 mL) for Moderna in the HL7 message to be reported from your Electronic Health Record (EHR) system to CT WiZ.

## Inventory Trainings in CT WiZ and VAMS

- **CT WiZ** – Moderna Booster Dose Inventory: Click [here for trainings](#) on how to ‘Document Wasted Vaccines’ and the ‘Moderna Wastage Tables’
- **VAMS** – Moderna Booster Dose Inventory: Click [here for release notes](#) in VAMS Release 6.1.1

**Report vaccine temperature excursions and vaccines wasted to the [Helpdesk](#)** by following the prompts and submitting a ticket.

- Immediately report all temperature excursions in storage units containing COVID-19 vaccines. Staff will be notified in real time of the excursion and will assist you. Please store vaccines in the storage unit in a paper bag marked "do not use" until a

- determination about the viability of the vaccine has been made, in consultation with the manufacturer and the Immunization Program.
- Also report to the Helpdesk all COVID-19 vaccines deemed wasted or expired. This includes Pfizer vials from which a sixth dose cannot be extracted.

### **Vaccine Lot Management and Expiration**

In order to minimize the number of unused expired doses and manage expired doses correctly, we encourage providers to:

- Monitor expiration dates weekly, rotate stock as needed, and follow a “first in, first out” strategy to manage inventory.
- If nearing expiration, check posted manufacturer information for the most up to date expiration/extension information for vaccine lots.
- Based on the latest expiration information and unless instructed to do otherwise, REMOVE expired vaccine from the storage unit. Do not give staff opportunity to administer expired vaccine.
  - If expired vaccine is inadvertently administered, it is considered a vaccine administration error and requires remediation including a VAERS report, contacting the recipient to inform them of the error, and may or may not require revaccination based on the manufacturers’ guidance. Guidance on vaccine administration errors can be found in Appendix A of the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#).
- Vaccine disposal: dispose of the vaccine vial (with any remaining vaccine) and packaging as medical waste. Do NOT return vaccine in the thermal shipping container.
- Check your vaccine stock for lots expiring using the [CDC’s Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date webpage](#).
- Any vial of J&J that has a date prior to September 23, 2021 has now expired. There will be no more extension. J&J has an expiration date look up [website](#).
- Request access to a new COVID-19 Vaccine Lot Number report via CDC’s Vaccine Code Set Management Service (VCSMS). This report includes COVID-19 vaccine lot numbers and expiration dates provided to CDC by the vaccine manufacturers. This report is updated daily and can be used to support vaccine administration, inventory management, and jurisdiction IISs. Complete the registration form on [CDC’s Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date webpage](#) to request access to the report.

Providers should dispose of expired vaccine appropriately and report the wastage in the DPH ticketing system. 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.

### **[Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety | CDC](#)**

Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine: Women younger than 50 years old should especially be aware of the rare risk of blood clots with low platelets after vaccination. There are other COVID-19 vaccines available for which this risk has not been seen. If you received a J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, [here is what you need to know](#). Read the [CDC/FDA statement](#).

**Communicating the Benefits of Influenza Vaccine during COVID-19** Please see new handout which includes updated recommendations on co-administration of flu and COVID-19 vaccines and tips for discussing flu vaccine with patients. Check it out [here](#).

## **Influenza Corner**

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices *Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2021–22 Influenza Season* is available [here](#).

If a patient is eligible, both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same visit, [as recommended by CDC and its Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices \(ACIP\)](#).

In addition to flu vaccine, the COVID-19 vaccine can be given with other vaccines as well. Even though both vaccines can be given at the same visit, providers should follow the recommended schedule for either vaccine: If your patients haven't gotten the currently recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccine, they should get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, and ideally they should get a flu vaccine by the end of October.

Giving all vaccines for which a person is eligible at the same visit is considered a [best practice](#) as it increases the probability people will be up to date on recommended vaccines. It also is an important part of immunization practice, especially if a health care provider is uncertain that a patient will return for additional doses of vaccine.

## **Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines**

You may 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](#))

## **Ensure Best Practice by Checking CT WiZ Before Vaccinating**

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.

- 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](#).
- If you need support, please submit a [Helpdesk ticket](#).

## **Post Notice to Patients About Reporting to CT WiZ at CoVP Clinics**

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.

### **Replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards**

- *Recommendation:* 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 [immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:immunizations@ct.gov) and we will email you a pdf of the card for your clinic to print (*note: these should not be posted on your website*). Large type print cards are also available via pdf.
- *Reminder:* You should issue CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Cards to your vaccine recipients. DPH cannot issue a CDC card to recipients. DPH can provide the immunization record from CT WiZ. DPH's procedure is on our COVID-19 Vaccine and DPH Immunization webpages at: [I lost my vaccine card, how do I get another one? \(ct.gov\)](#) and [Request an Official Immunization Record](#).

### **Upcoming Clinic Trainings and Office Hours**

- **CoVP Update -- next meeting December 1st**  
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](#)
- The **CoVP Enrollment Office Hours** Provides information about the CoVP enrollment process in CT WiZ and Q&A with DPH staff. **Mondays** 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** 10:00am-11:00am & **Thursdays** 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.

Thank you for all of your ongoing work and support of our COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Connecticut.

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