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Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:38 AM

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Provider Bulletin, Week of November 8



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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](#).

Thank you for everything that you are doing to roll-out our COVID vaccine to children 5-11! We have seen a phenomenal response from families and children across the State. We know that many of you are working tirelessly to set up these clinics, engage with families, and offer recommendations and counseling. Thank you!

UPDATES

COVID-19 vaccine orders, pediatric Pfizer vaccine storage and expiration

Pediatric Pfizer vaccine orders can be placed in the [ordering portal](#) alongside other COVID-19 vaccines. **Requests for all COVID-19 vaccine doses should be submitted by noon on Tuesdays.**

As a reminder, the adolescent and adult product cannot be used for children under 12. 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.

You can support patients to find clinic locations by directing them to ct.gov/covidvaccine. Right now, this website hosts a vaccine finder tool that is updated by the Immunization Program. In the future, this website will link directly to vaccines.gov. In order to make sure your clinic listings remain up to date, **by Wednesday, November 10** please make sure that you are registered, report your inventory to VaccineFinder daily, and select the option to make your clinic visible to the public (optional).

New and updated resources from the CDC

- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#) (11/3)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine to Persons 12 Years of Age and Older](#) (10/29)
- [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](#) (early release 11/5)
- [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](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)
- [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](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Underlying Medical Conditions](#)

Recent COVID-19 and vaccine related publications

- [Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 Among Adults Hospitalized with COVID-19–Like Illness with Infection-Induced or mRNA Vaccine-Induced SARS-CoV-2 Immunity — Nine States, January–September 2021](#)
- [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendations for Additional Primary and Booster Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines — United States, 2021](#)

- [Effectiveness of 2-Dose Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Against COVID-19–Associated Hospitalizations Among Immunocompromised Adults — Nine States, January–September 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination and Non–COVID-19 Mortality Risk — Seven Integrated Health Care Organizations, United States, December 14, 2020–July 31, 2021](#)
- [Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA Vaccination Against COVID-19 Hospitalization Among Persons Aged 12–18 Years — United States, June–September 2021](#)

From Pfizer

Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs continues to host daily Medical Updates & Immunization Site Training for All Providers with a Focus on Emergency Use Authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5 through 11 Years of Age. In addition to Medical Updates, sessions will focus on the Storage, Handling, & Administration for currently available vaccine presentations.

These sessions will be updated to reflect new information and changes that evolve. Such updates will be identified at the start of each session and further explained during each presentation.

Click on the links below to join the sessions at the designated times.*

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Password</u>
Attendee link – November 8 – 5 PM ET	BtJSxJqw942
Attendee link – November 9 – 5 PM ET	aRDjkmMD349
Attendee link – November 10 – 12 PM ET	QPfX8RMMy8M7
Attendee link – November 11 – 12 PM ET	Tntjh4UMr55
Attendee link – November 12 – 12 PM ET	mfP2vm8HhD5

*Weblinks for future training sessions will provided at a later date.

Before administration of the vaccine, please see full [Prescribing Information \(16+ years of age\)](#) and [EUA Fact Sheets for Vaccination Providers: 12+ years of age \(DILUTE BEFORE USE/Purple cap\)](#), [12+ years of age \(DO NOT DILUTE/Gray cap\)](#) and [5 through 11 years of age \(DILUTE PRIOR TO USE/Orange cap\)](#).

From Moderna:

Join Moderna and Dr. Jerome Adams, Dr. Lauren B Angelo & Dr. Jaime E Fergie for a round table to discuss the EUA for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose, the data that informed this authorization and recommendation, and the impact on clinical practice.

November 18 at 3:00 PM ET – [Register here](#)

Vaccine Inventory

VAMS – Moderna Booster Dose Inventory: Click [here for release notes](#) in VAMS Release 6.1.1

CT WiZ – Moderna Booster Dose Inventory: Click [here for trainings](#) on how to ‘Document Wasted Vaccines’ and the ‘Moderna Wastage Tables’ (see *Reminders below for additional tips on adjustments*)

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](#).

New and updated resources

- [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](#)
- [Moderna](#), [Janssen](#), and [Pfizer](#) updated standing orders for booster doses
- [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 will be made available soon)
- 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.

Training – Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

Join Moderna for a webinar for vaccination providers to learn more about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose. **Webinar:** Important updates on the mRNA-1273 50 µg Booster Dose

Thursday, November 11th at 12pm ET – [Register here for Nov 11](#)

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”.
 - Moderna 10 – *is not currently available for ordering.*
 - Moderna 14 – most inventory will be this product.
- 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.

Booster Doses

There are now booster recommendations for all three COVID vaccines. All providers should actively reach out to patients to whom they gave first doses and encourage them to receive booster doses if eligible. All individuals 65 and older should receive a booster; Everyone who received J&J should receive a booster; and many individuals 18-64 who received an mRNA vaccine are likewise eligible for a booster. Please read below for details.

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

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)

For individuals who received a J&J vaccine

For individuals who received a J&J vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago. This means that all individuals who received a J&J vaccine should receive a booster.

Mixing & Matching (heterologous series)

Both the Food and Drug Administration (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.

Moderna Inventory Shelf Life Extension

- **Shelf-life extension:** Moderna continues to update data regarding extension of expired doses. A total of 78 lots have been approved for extension, and more may follow. These batches of Moderna vaccine have been processed for expiry extension and provide an additional 2 months. The product **must be maintained in the frozen state for the extension to be** applicable (extension does not apply to thawed vials). Moderna's [look up tool](#) remains the official indicator of product expiry.

[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](#).

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.

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](#))

With influenza season approaching, there may be compelling logistical advantages to offering patients COVID-19 and influenza vaccines on the same day, and you may encourage patients to receive these on the same day. There are no safety concerns for coadministration.

Best practices for [administering more than one vaccine](#), including COVID-19 vaccines and influenza vaccines, include:

- When preparing more than one vaccine, label each with the name and dosage (amount) of vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Always inject vaccines into different injection sites.
 - Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible so that any local reactions can be differentiated.
 - Each muscle (deltoid, vastus lateralis) has multiple injection sites ([Vaccine Administration Route and Site](#)).
- If administered at the same time, COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that might be more likely to cause a local injection site reaction (for example, [high-dose and adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccines](#)) should be administered in different limbs, if possible ([Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)–United States, 2021-22](#)).
- Inject vaccines rapidly without aspiration since aspiration is not recommended before administering a vaccine ([Vaccine Administration Route and Site](#)).
- There are many existing resources on administration and co-administration of vaccines relevant for healthcare providers, including:
 - [Pink Book: Vaccine Administration | CDC](#)
 - [You Call The Shots: Vaccinating Adolescents](#) (cdc.gov)
 - [Vaccine Administration Training Module](#) (cdc.gov)
 - [Intramuscular \(IM\) Injection: Sites](#) - YouTube
 - CDC also is developing a job aid and video for health care professionals on coadministration of 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](#).

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.

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 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

- **CoVPUpdate -- next meeting November 17th**
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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