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Subject: Subject: Booster dose recommendations and implementation, September 24, 2021



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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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](#).

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

This email contains important information about a COVID-19 vaccine booster roll-out that we want to make sure you are aware of.

Booster dose recommendations

COVID-19 Vaccine Providers in Connecticut may begin administration of Pfizer booster doses in line with the FDA emergency use authorization and CDC recommendations.

CDC recommends:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- People aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- People aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **may*** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- People aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may*** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

*See [ACIP Shared Clinical Decision-Making Recommendations](#)

Note that persons who received Moderna or J&J vaccines for their primary doses are not included in the CDC recommendation currently. We expect to receive several continued updates to booster dose guidelines over the next weeks. These will include further clarification of today's recommendations; and likely include recommendations related to the Moderna and the J&J vaccines as well as potential expansion of the recommended population groups.

We encourage providers to begin outreach to those who are 65+ and at least 6 months from the second dose of the primary series of Pfizer as well as those who are under 65 and meet the CDC recommendations to encourage them to receive booster doses.

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 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 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 booster:

Connecticut DPH recognizes that the categories of individuals for whom boosters may be confusing or not immediately clear to all patients. 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.

Vaccine Ordering

Providers who wish to order additional Pfizer vaccine at this time so they have adequate stocks for booster dose administration over the next days are encouraged to do so.

We encourage providers to please order only according to your anticipated COVID-19 vaccine needs for the next 10 days; vaccine supply is adequate. Given that it is difficult to estimate need, it is preferable that you place smaller doses more frequently rather than larger orders less frequently.

Reminders

Please verify your listings are correct on ct.gov/covidvaccine. If you need to add new clinic locations, remove a clinic location, or modify the products you offer, please email Caroline.Hou@ct.gov.

Thank you for everything you are doing to keep Connecticut residents safe and healthy!

CT DPH Immunization Program Main P: (860) 509-7929 | Fax: (860) 706-5429 | Email: dph.immunizations@ct.gov Website: [CT Immunization Program](#) | [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

If you would like to unsubscribe from these communications, please send an email to Dph.immunizations@ct.gov with the subject line "Unsubscribe from COVID-19 Program communications".