



# Weekly COVID-19 Provider Update

Wednesday @ 9am

# Key figures – as of Monday

~75%

**Coverage among 75+**

~60%

**Coverage among 65+**

(37% among 65-74)




963k

**Total doses administered**

~627k first doses & ~336k second doses

Consistent  
administration of  
>20k doses per  
day

# Allocation

	This week (3/1)	Next week	
State allocation	108,120	81,430	
Pharmacy allocation	33,270	22,900	
FQHC allocation	15,000	TBD	

Overall, reduced allocation next week due to pause in J&J shipments

Modest increase in state allocation of Pfizer.

# Biden administration teacher announcement

COVID-19 VACCINE

Biden administration to prioritize COVID-19 vaccinations for school teachers in pharmacy program

AP

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:13PM

- We are awaiting more information
- Do not want to disrupt current plans - education and childcare clinics should proceed as planned
- Federal approach is aligned in goals with our own Connecticut approach

# Equity commitment

- Our initially released data already demonstrates disparity in vaccine administration by place of residence (vulnerable populations lag general population)
- We will be working on public reporting of vaccine coverage in these priority areas and invite all providers to scrutinize their own data



# Equity commitment: Prioritized zip codes

Ansonia	06401
Bridgeport	06604, 06605, 06606, 06607, 06608, 06610
Brooklyn	06234
Danbury	06810
Derby	06418
East Hartford	06108, 06118
Hartford	06103, 06105, 06106, 06112, 06114, 06120
Killingly	06239, 06241
Manchester	06040
Mansfield	06250
Montville	06382
Naugatuck	06770
New Britain	06051, 06052, 06053
New Haven	06511, 06513, 06515, 06519
New London	06320
Norwalk	06854
Norwich	06360
Plainville	06062
Stamford	06901, 06902
Waterbury	06702, 06704, 06705, 06706, 06708, 06710
West Hartford	06110, 06119
West Haven	06516
Willimantic	06226
Windham	06256, 06280
Winsted	06098

These 50 zip codes are prioritized based on the CDC's social vulnerability index

They contain roughly 25% of the eligible population

Want to ensure that 25% of supply is directed to the residents of these areas

Tracking and public reporting to begin in the next 2-3 weeks

# Current Eligibility

## Phase 1a

- Healthcare personnel
- Medical first responders
- Long-term care facility residents (and staff)

## Phase 1b

### Scheduling now:

- Individuals 55+
- Educators and childcare professionals

### Coming soon:

- Individuals 45-54 (*tentative Mar 22*)
- Individuals 35-44 (*tentative Apr 12*)
- Individuals 16-34 (*tentative May 3*)

***Congregate settings to be done in parallel***

## Provider role in eligibility

- All providers are expected to help ensure eligibility
- Live or work in CT; eligible in the current phase
- Verbally confirm eligibility
- Use the posters

# Vaccine Orders

- ALL providers must submit their orders every week in our COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering portal, <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/ClinicVaccinationOrder>
- Orders in the portal are for first doses only, do not request second dose allocation through the portal.
- Communications from the portal are for first doses and can be used to delineate the number of first vs. second doses received.
- Providers who have many doses on-hand without sufficient appointments scheduled may not receive additional first dose allocation until current inventory has been used - Please use the comment field to explain

Deadline to submit orders are Tuesdays at noon.  
All orders must be placed in the ordering portal.





# Janssen (J&J) Vaccine Update

# Clinical Resources

## **Clinical Guidance is being finalized. We appreciate your patience.**

We expect the following resources to be available within the next few days when clinical guidance content has been finalized:

- COVID-19 Prevaccination Checklist
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Standing Orders and updates to Pfizer and Moderna vaccine Standing Orders
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Training Module
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Preparation and Administration Summary

[The Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#), [Interim Considerations for Phased Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination and Sub-Prioritization Among Recommended Populations](#), and [Interim Clinical Considerations for Preparing for the Potential Management of Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 Vaccination](#) are expected to be updated soon if they have not been already. The [Storage and Handling Toolkit](#) will also have information on the Janssen Vaccine in the COVID-19 Vaccine Addendum soon.

Keep checking the websites for updates and more information!

## Updates

### **NEW** Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine materials are live!

CDC has posted new resources for the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine \(Johnson & Johnson\)](#) on the product specific webpage.

Clinical resources currently available to support the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- [Emergency Use Authorization](#)
- [ACIP Recommendation for Use of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Janssen Vaccine Storage and Handling Summary](#)
- [Janssen Vaccine Storage and Handling Labels](#)
- **NEW** [Transport Guidance Summary](#)
- **NEW** [Transport Temperature Log](#)

# JnJ One-page Infographic

This one-page infographic will be available on our [CoVP Communications webpage](#) shortly

## Janssen Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Authorized

[ct.gov/covidvaccine](http://ct.gov/covidvaccine)

The FDA has issued an emergency use authorization for the Janssen Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine.

- This means there are now **three vaccines available** (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson).
- All three vaccines are **SAFE and HIGHLY EFFECTIVE** against COVID-19, protecting you from:
  - X SERIOUS ILLNESS**
  - X HOSPITALIZATION**
  - X DEATH**

### Facts about the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccines

- Requires one shot**, not two
- J&J is a viral vector vaccine.** Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines.
- Different types of vaccine, but same results.** Like Pfizer and Moderna, the J&J vaccine:
  - Can't infect anyone with COVID-19
  - Doesn't affect or interact with our DNA
  - Protects against hospitalization and death from COVID-19

### What's the best vaccine you can get?

The one you can get today. If you're eligible, don't wait!

### Getting vaccinated is one of many steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

For some people, COVID-19 can cause severe illness or death. Getting vaccinated not only protects you from COVID-19, it also protects those around you by preventing its spread. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the prevention tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus. Other steps, like masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus and spreading it to others. **Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.**

Learn more: [www.fda.gov/media/146305/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download)

GET THE FACTS ON THE VAX



# Storage and Handling Reminders

# Emergency Back-Up Plan

## Reminders:

- Have a current Emergency Vaccine Storage Back-Up Plan posted on all storage units
- Monitor for inclement weather conditions and move vaccine **proactively** to a site with a back-up power source (e.g., generator)

## Back Up Power Options

1. [Best Practice] Have an automatic back-up generator onsite
  - Make sure this generator is functioning and properly connected to your storage device
2. Coordinate an agreement with a nearby location that has an automatic generator, prior to any emergency
  - This may be the local hospital, pharmacy, fire station, or another practice.
  - Always maintain the cold chain- ensure proper transport and monitoring via a DDL.

# Digital Data Logger Specifications

*All COVID-19 vaccine providers **MUST** have a functioning, digital, downloadable, continuous temperature monitoring device (e.g., data logger) with a current and valid certificate of calibration in all storage units that are used for vaccine storage.*

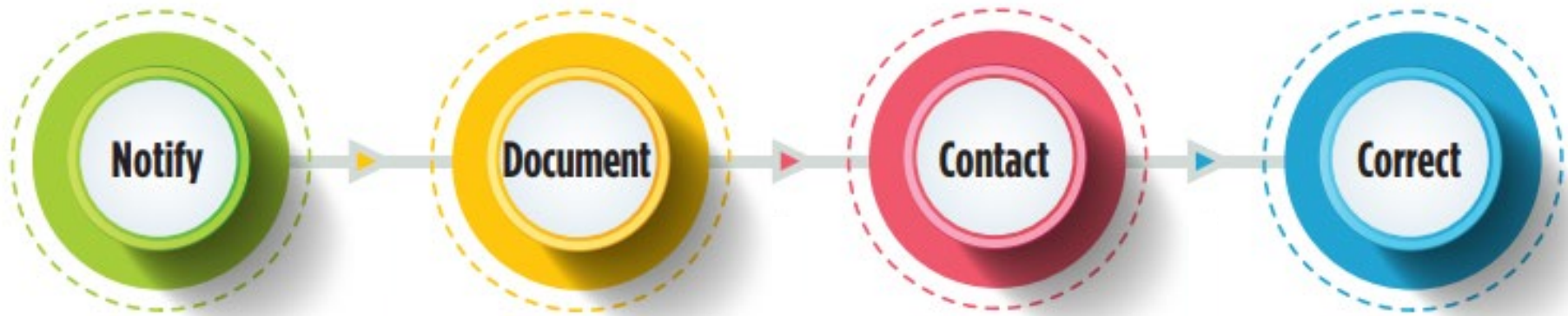
- Maximum logging interval is 15 minutes, but you may choose to have a shorter interval for increased data quality

Other recommended specifications:

- Alarm/Notification system

# Temperature Excursion Reporting

- All COVID Vaccine Temperature Excursions require immediate action and must be reported to DPH
  - A reporting mechanism via the [DPH Helpdesk](#)



Moderna: 1-866-663-3762

Pfizer: 1-800- 666-7248

JnJ: 1-800-565-4008

DPH Helpdesk



# Temperature Excursion Reporting Method

If you experience a temperature excursion or receive a non-viable shipment, please follow these steps:

- 1. Ensure all vaccine is stored at the appropriate temperature and mark “do not use” until you determine viability.**  
This may require you to enact your [backup plan](#) and transport vaccine.
- 2. For a non-viable shipments: Call the number in the shipper to report a non-viable delivery**
  - [McKesson](#) is the centralized distributor of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary kits.  
1-833-343-2703; [COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com](mailto:COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com)
  - [Moderna Storage and Handling Summary](#)
  - [Pfizer-BioNTech Storage and Handling Summary](#)
- 3. Call Moderna/Pfizer to determine viability and request documentation.**
  - [Moderna Call Center](#)  
1-866-MODERNA (1-866-663-3762)
  - [Pfizer Vaccine](#)  
1-800-TRY-FIRST (1-800-879-3477); [directshipCOVID@cdc.gov](mailto:directshipCOVID@cdc.gov)
- 4. Report outcome to the Department of Public Health. Submit a ticket via [DPH Ticketing System \(ct.gov\)](#) and choose: COVID-19 Vaccination – Clinic – Report Vaccine Temperature Excursion – Select appropriate subtopic. Please include your PIN.**
  - Briefly describe the temperature excursion
  - Attach a copy of your temperature log (for temperature excursions)
  - Attach Manufacturer documentation on viability determination

# Reporting Vaccine Wastage

[Create a ticket](#)

What system do you need assistance with? \* - Required Field \*  
 COVID-19 Vaccination

Select the category: \*  
 Clinic Administration

Select the topic: \*  
 Report Vaccine Wastage

Select the sub topic: \*  
 Report Vaccine Wastage

- All wasted vaccine doses must be reported in the ticketing system.
- A new section was created specifically to capture information on wasted doses.
- Wasted doses are required to be reported per the CoVP Provider Agreement.

select a wastage reason

- Broken vial/syringe
- Vaccine drawn into syringe but not administered
- Lost or unaccounted for vaccine
- Open vial but all doses not administered
- Other

Preferred method of communication:  Phone  Email \*

Name of organization/provider/local health department \*

Provider PIN # \*

Choose multiple vaccine types  Moderna  Pfizer  Johnson and Johnson \*

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Number of Moderna Doses Wasted:  \*

Lot Number(s) Affected  \*

Expiration Date  \*

Wastage Reason: select a wastage reason \*

Steps taken to prevent further wastage  \*

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Brief description of the issue:  \*

Please do not include Personal Identifiable Information (PII) in your description.



# New Resources

# Pfizer Vaccine Preparation

Providers should refer to [CDC Pfizer Preparation Infographic](#) for clinical guidance to ensure that 6 doses are withdrawn from each vial.

**Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**  
 Vaccine Preparation

Prepare the injection with the correct needle length based on the recipient's age, gender, and weight (for persons 19 years of age and older).

- Use aseptic technique to mix the vaccine and prepare the injection.
- Prepare the vaccine using a **NEW** vial of diluent and a **NEW** vial of vaccine **EVERY TIME**.
- Prepare the injection using a new, sterile needle and syringe **EVERY TIME**.

**» Mixing Vaccine**

**Do**

- Use the needles and syringes labeled for mixing vaccine and diluent in the ancillary supply kit.
- Use 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline, preservative-free) **ONLY**.
- Mix 1.8 mL of the diluent with the thawed vaccine.\* Slowly inject diluent to prevent excess foaming or bubbling.
- Gently invert the vial 10 times before and after adding the diluent.
- Discard the diluent vial after mixing the vaccine.

**Don't**

- Do **NOT** use needles and syringes designated for administration to mix vaccine and diluent.
- Do **NOT** use bacteriostatic normal saline or other diluents.
- Do **NOT** use all the diluent in the vial.
- Do **NOT** shake the vial.
- Do **NOT** use or save any remaining diluent to mix with additional vials of vaccine or for other uses.

**» Withdrawing 6 doses of vaccine from the vial**

After mixing, a vial of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine contains up to six 0.3 mL doses of vaccine. Use low dead-volume syringes and/or needles to withdraw 6 doses.

- If sufficient quantities of low-dead volume syringes are not available, withdraw vaccine using a combination of low dead-volume syringes and non low-dead volume syringes (e.g., 3 low dead-volume syringes and 3 non-low dead-volume syringes) per vial.

**Do**

- When mixing and withdrawing vaccine, insert the needle into different places on the vial septum.
- Leave syringe in vial to remove air bubbles, when applicable.
- If, after withdrawing 5 doses, the amount of vaccine left in the vial is not a full dose, discard the vial and remaining vaccine.

**Don't**

- Do **NOT** use the same insertion point every time. This may cause vaccine to leak from the vial.
- Do **NOT** remove air bubbles with the needle outside of the vial as vaccine can be easily lost in the process.
- Do **NOT** combine remaining vaccine from multiple vials to obtain a full dose.

\*Using a 21-gauge or narrower needle

02/18/2021 CS321570N

# Multilingual Phase Poster

Currently available in English and Spanish.

Polish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole coming soon.

If specific languages are needed, please submit a request to DPH.

**Los residentes y trabajadores de Connecticut que actualmente son elegibles para recibir la vacuna, incluyen:**

Personas de 55 años o más

**Personal sanitario y socorristas médicos:** Todas las personas que prestan servicios remunerados y no remunerados en el área de atención médica que tienen riesgo de exposición directa o indirecta a los pacientes con materiales infecciosos.

**Residentes y personal de ambientes de alta concentración, incluyendo hogares de ancianos y otras instalaciones de cuidados a largo plazo:** Residentes y personal de instalaciones de Connecticut, que brindan servicios de apoyo o supervisión a sus residentes y donde no es posible el distanciamiento social, debido a habitaciones compartidas, cocinas compartidas o baños compartidos. Esto incluye hogares de ancianos e instalaciones de asistencia para vivir. Los entornos colectivos no incluyen apartamentos con apoyo, entornos familiares, residencias universitarias o escuelas de internado.

**Profesionales de cuidado de niños con licencia o exentos de licencia**  
Individuos que trabajan en un actual programa de cuidado infantil en funcionamiento con sede en Connecticut y operado por una junta de educación local, municipalidad o regulado por la Oficina del Programa de Licencias de Cuidado de Temprana Infancia.

**Profesionales de pre-kindergarten hasta la escuela secundaria:** Individuos que trabajan en el pre-kindergarten hasta escuelas secundarias con sede en Connecticut, incluidos maestros, paraprofesionales, personal de conserjes, personal de servicios de alimentos, conductores de autobuses, voluntarios en la escuela y otro personal de la escuela. Las personas que no estén obligadas a asistir a instalaciones escolares deben esperar su elegibilidad por edad.

**Al asistir a esta clínica, usted confirma que cumple con estos requisitos de elegibilidad. Se le puede solicitar prueba de trabajo o residencia.**

**Si usted no es elegible en la fase actual, déjenos saber y podrá reprogramar su cita una vez que sea elegible.**



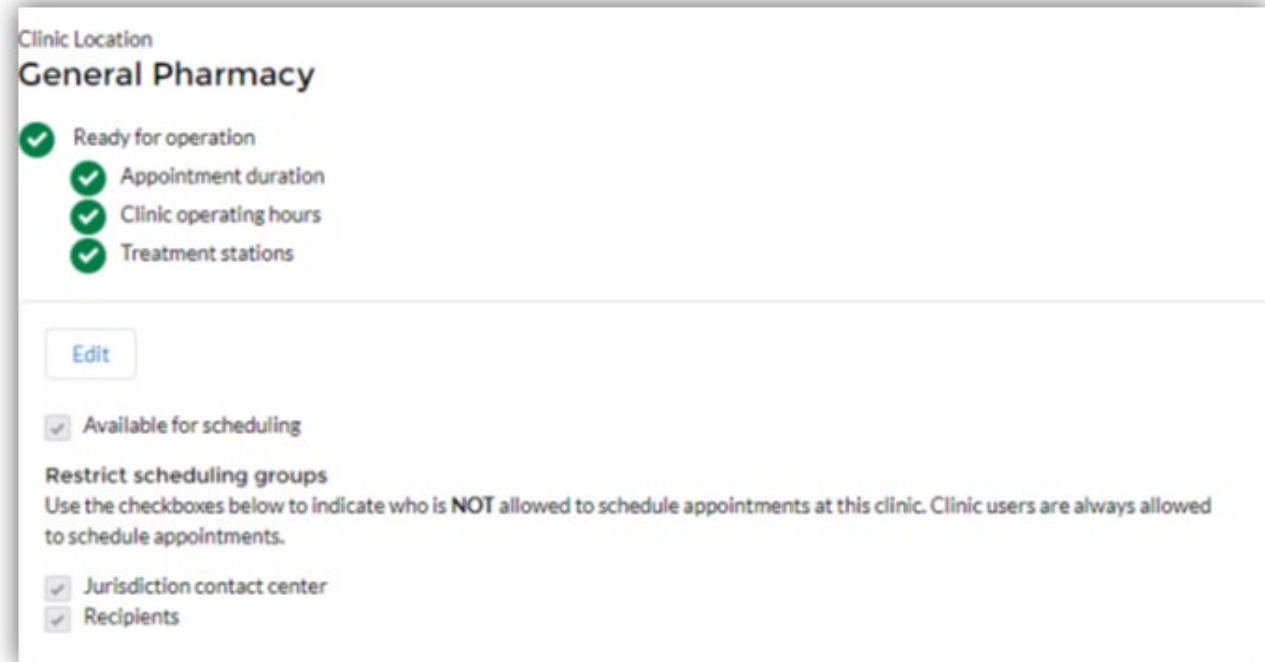
# VAMS Second Dose Options

# VAMS Appointments

- Recent enhancements in VAMS for clinic scheduling:
  - Allow clinics visibility into their own available appointments
  - Restrict specific user groups from scheduling appointments in your clinic
  - Reservation percentages control appointment types in clinic (walk-ins, 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)
  - Clinics can schedule future appointments on behalf of recipients
- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments should be scheduled for recipients before the recipient leaves your clinic
  - During the observation period is the perfect time
  - The recipient can log into their account and schedule an appointment
  - A staff member with Front Desk role can schedule the appointment

# Restrict specific user groups from scheduling

- Two new user groups were added to Clinic Setup.
  - Jurisdiction Contact Center- i.e. 211, Helpdesk
  - Recipients-All VAMS users
- On Clinic Setup tab, click on the blue clinic name
- Click Edit
- Make sure the Available for Scheduling checkbox is checked
- To prevent Jurisdiction Contact Center users and all VAMS recipients from scheduling, check these two checkboxes.
- Click Save
- Clinic will not be visible to these two scheduling groups to schedule appointments.
- Only the clinic can schedule appointments.



Clinic Location  
**General Pharmacy**

- Ready for operation
- Appointment duration
- Clinic operating hours
- Treatment stations

[Edit](#)

Available for scheduling

**Restrict scheduling groups**  
Use the checkboxes below to indicate who is **NOT** allowed to schedule appointments at this clinic. Clinic users are always allowed to schedule appointments.

- Jurisdiction contact center
- Recipients



# Set Appointment Reservation Percentages to 100% for 2<sup>nd</sup> dose only

- On 'Clinic reservations' tab make **% Reserved for second dose** for all different tiers as **100%**
- Appointments at this clinic will only be visible to recipients needing to schedule a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.



Tier #	Duration of tier	% Reserved for First Doses	% Reserved for Second Doses	% Reserved for Walk-ins	% Reserved for Free For Alls
1. Tier 1	Day 1 - 20	0	100	0	0
2. Tier 2a	Day 21 - 27	0	100	0	0
3. Tier 2b	Day 28 - 34	0	100	0	0
4. Tier 3	Day 35 and onward	0	100	0	0

- Run a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose only clinic to restrict only recipients needing a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose to schedule in your clinic.
- On the Clinic Reservation tab, click on each cell and change the % Reserved for Second Doses to 100% for each Tier.
- Change Walk-ins and First Dose to 0%. The Free For All automatically defaults to 0%.
- Click Save.
- You may need a separate clinic set to allow for 100% 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments only.



# Schedule Future 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Appointments

- Log into clinic portal used for 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments
- Search for existing recipient (they must have an account in VAMS)
- Select recipient
- Click on Schedule Future Appointment
- Select Yes for receiving a previous vaccine.
  - If VAMS does not have 1<sup>st</sup> dose recorded answer the questions about the 1<sup>st</sup> dose vaccine and administered date.
- Enter your clinics zip code or address, click on Search.
- Choose your clinic and schedule the appointment.
- Recipient receives an appointment confirmation email/text.

# Add'l options for controlling your appointments

- Clinics can override the reservation percentages to schedule any 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointment.
  - Regardless of what the reservation percentages are set for, when you schedule a future appointment and indicate 1<sup>st</sup> dose or 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, the appointment will be scheduled.
- Create closed pods with Limited Service Groups tied to specific Organizations
  - \* A limited service group allows your clinic to assign specific Organization members to schedule appointments in your clinic.
  - \* Example: School districts and Child Care providers.
  - \* No other VAMS users will see your clinic and schedule appointments.
  - \* A separate clinic may be needed to create this limited service group.
- Review your Clinic Capacity report for available appointments and adjust your schedule as needed. This updates every 3 hours: 9am, 12pm, etc.

For additional clinics needed in VAMS, complete the [VAMS Clinic Request form](#).

# VAMS Support/Training

Visit [VAMS Training \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/vams) or click on a link below to register or join a session. Under ‘Latest News’ review the VAMS Enhancements to help you utilize NEW functionality.

- VAMS Live Helpdesk Office Hours for Clinics: Tuesdays & Thursday 9:30am-12:00pm. Click here: [VAMS Live Helpdesk Office Hours](#).
- VAMS Clinic Administrator and Inventory Manager Training with Q&A: Wednesdays 12:00pm - 1:00pm - 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31 sessions provide VAMS Clinic Administrators and/or Inventory Managers in VAMS the most up-to-date information on system functionality and enhancements, as well as Q&A. Register: [VAMS Clinic Administrator and Inventory Manager Training with Q&A](#).
- VAMS - Front Desk and Healthcare Professional Clinic Roles Training with Q&A: Fridays 9:00am - 10:00am - 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 sessions provide VAMS clinic staff with Front Desk and Healthcare Professional roles in VAMS, the most up-to-date information on system functionality and enhancements, as well as Q&A. Register: [VAMS - Front Desk and Healthcare Professional Clinic Roles Training with Q&A](#).

# Question and Answers

To ask a question, please raise your hand using the hand icon on your screen, type your question in the chat box or if you are on the phone press \*6 to unmute yourself.

If you have additional questions after the meeting, please feel free to email them to [DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov)

You can fill out a help desk ticket by visiting <https://dph-cthelpdesk.ct.gov/Ticket>