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**From:** dph.immunizations@ct.gov <noreply@everbridge.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2020 2:06 PM  
**To:**  
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Connecticut Department of Public Health

### COVID 19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin

Week of December 21, 2020

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

This note is going to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update.

Below are key updates:

- **Expanding our POD network:** We have been working with many healthcare providers across the State to onboard as COVID-19 Vaccine points of distribution (PODs). We are excited that this coming week we will have >15 PODs at Federally Qualified Health Centers and >15 PODs at Local Health Departments in addition to our hospital sites. In addition, many hospitals are redistributing product within their network to make it available in ambulatory settings.
- **Supply volumes:** While we do not have final numbers, we believe this week's number of Moderna doses will be a "high water mark" relative to future weeks (reflecting the accumulated effect of several months of production ahead of this weekend's EUA). We will work to communicate to you our best supply forecast moving forward as soon as we can
- **Product mix:** Over the next several weeks, we expect to have primarily Moderna vaccine available for COVID-19 vaccine providers. This is a result of two factors: 1) less-than-projected Pfizer product available; and 2) most of Connecticut's Pfizer allocation will be going to the on-site vaccine clinics at long-term care facilities. For the next several weeks, most hospitals will receive very little Pfizer, and receive mostly Moderna. All FQHCs, Local Health Departments, and other outpatient settings should plan for exclusively Moderna for the foreseeable future. As a reminder, this will change over time and we cannot guarantee that you will only receive one product or another (except for second doses, which we can guarantee will be of the same product as the one you received for first doses). Also, eventually there may be 3 or even 4 authorized COVID vaccines, so supply heterogeneity will be a norm.
- **Reminder - do not hold back second doses!** As a reminder – all product you are being allocated now is intended to be used as a *first dose* of the 2-dose course. You are guaranteed to be provided vaccine to

support a second dose ~3-4 weeks after first doses. Second doses will be the same vaccine product as the first doses. *Do not store or reserve doses from your first dose shipments – use all current product to provide first doses!*

- **Employers coming into VAMS:** We have a large group of employers who will be rostering individuals in VAMS in the next weeks. For those providers who have VAMS appointment slots open, you will likely see them fill relatively quickly. If you are observing any slack, let us know. We would like to continue to encourage as many providers as possible to offer slots that can be scheduled through VAMS by all Phase 1a-eligible individuals
- **This week’s deliveries:** All provider organizations should get an email by Monday confirming their order volumes for this coming week. Orders should be arriving between Monday and Wednesday of this week – most on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- **Future orders: Starting on Monday 12/21,** order requests should be submitted through the VAMS clinic portal for VAMS users (or CT WiZ for non-VAMS users) **by noon each Wednesday.** CT DPH will communicate the amount of vaccine we are able to send you by Friday. We will communicate this information through the portal used to place the order request (VAMS or CT WiZ). The exception to this will be the next 2 weeks during the holidays; we will communicate order amounts by Monday rather than on the holiday. As noted above, we expect demand to exceed supply for the foreseeable future, so your actual orders will likely be less than requested.  
\*VAMS users can pick up 2D bar code readers (available at no cost) – to facilitate inventory and patient administration of doses into the system.
- **Eligibility for Phase 1a:** We appreciate everyone’s efforts to ensure those who are most at risk of exposure to COVID-19 can receive a COVID vaccine quickly – both within and beyond your institutions. We are asking all providers (as both an employer and a provider) to play a role in helping to ensure eligibility and access. The attached document provides an overview of Phase 1a eligibility information. You are asked to make best efforts to adhere to this. For future phases, we will work to give you clearer guidance in advance of the start of the phase.
- **Phase 1b & Phase 1c:** *No decisions have yet been made about Phase 1b and Phase 1c within Connecticut.* This weekend, ACIP recommended front-line essential workers and individuals 75 years of age and older as Phase 1b and other essential workers as Phase 1c. The Governor’s COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group’s Allocation Subcommittee will be addressing the topic of Phases 1b and 1c in Connecticut on Monday and we expect to have more updates soon. We will work to ensure this group has clear guidance about Phase 1b, 1c eligibility soon.
- **Day 1-readiness:** For those who are starting clinics for the first time, please ensure that you enter all vaccine received into inventory and that you are reporting all doses administered within 24 hours (if not being done in real time). Let us know if you encounter any challenges.
- **V-Safe:** The attached posters can be hung at your clinic sites – we are taking vaccine safety seriously, and [V-Safe](#) offers a way for individuals who receive vaccine to report any side effects.

**Additional resources:** We are making updates to our COVID-19 Providers page in real time as we receive information from CDC, Pfizer, Moderna, and others. We will post Moderna information including the EUA Fact Sheet and standing orders template as soon as it is available. We also have links to training pages, webinars, and helpdesk for VAMS and CT WiZ. We are attempting to keep up with the enormous volume of emails and phone calls we are receiving. Some questions may be more quickly answered on the [DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Providers website](#).

\* Pick up locations for 2D bar code readers and digital data loggers:

Region 1	Region 3	Region 5
Trumbull	Capitol Regional Council of Governments	Torrington Area Health District
POC: Nick Jossem	POC: Steven Huleatt	POC: Paul Rabeuf
Cell: 203-829-9250	Cell: 860-724-4274	Cell: 860-605-7652

<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Region 4</b>	
Chesprocott Health District	Ledge Light Health District	
POC: Olivia Chamberland	POC: Kris Magnussen	
Cell: 203-581-4951	Cell:860-449-2142	

Immunization Program

CT Department of Public Health

Email: [dph.immunizations@ct.gov](mailto:dph.immunizations@ct.gov)

Website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/Connecticut-Immunization--Program>

Help Desk Ticket: [DPH Ticketing System \(ct.gov\)](#)