

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

BLAST FAX 2022-32

TO: All Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

FROM: Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Chief of Staff

DATE: October 31, 2022

SUBJECT: CT DPH Holiday Challenge 2022: Get Up to Date for the Holidays!

As the holiday season approaches, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) anticipates elevated rates of COVID-19 in Connecticut. COVID-19 continues to pose a greater risk for older adults as the risk of severe illness and death increases exponentially with age. [Recent data](#) show that adults aged 65-74 are 5 times more likely to be hospitalized and 60 times more likely to die as a result of COVID-19 and those aged 85+ are 15 times more likely to be hospitalized and 340 times more likely to die from COVID-19.

During this holiday season, when families visit their loved ones in long-term care communities, they may unintentionally expose their loved ones and other residents to COVID-19. In consideration of the health and safety of all residents and staff in the long-term care setting, the CT DPH is encouraging all long-term care facilities to host COVID-19 vaccine clinics to bring as many staff and residents as possible up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations by November 9th, 2022. Vaccination by November 9th will allow a 2-week period for the vaccine to reach full efficacy by Thanksgiving.



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CT DPH is concerned about recent booster uptake among nursing home resident especially when compared to rates in neighboring states. [COVID-19 vaccines are working well](#) to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness wanes over time and the emergence of new variants further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters. The new bivalent booster provides the best available protection against both the original virus that causes COVID-19 and the currently circulating Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 variants.

As the state works to limit the spread of COVID-19, staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations may help control outbreaks in facilities so that everyone can enjoy the holiday season safely together.

If you have questions, please email dph.haiar@ct.gov