

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens, and offenders.

From the Commissioner



On August 19th, the Administration of Governor Ned Lamont announced Executive Order No.13D, which essentially mandated that all state employees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by September 27, 2021.

Under the mandate, if by then you are not either fully vaccinated, or had a first shot and an appointment for a second shot if one is necessary, then you will be subject to weekly testing. That testing is required whether you are exempt from the mandate for religious or medical reasons, or simply are unwilling to get vaccinated. You do not need a written exemption if you simply wish to be tested rather than get vaccinated.

The most important point I want to make is that regardless of whether or not you choose to get vaccinated, you must comply with the provisions of the Governor’s Executive Order or risk being put out on Administrative Leave without pay.

In order to be compliant to the governor’s order you must utilize the process to certify compliance in the Covid Navigator App. The app may be accessed using either your mobile phone or through a browser on any desktop with Internet access.

Once you have registered in the app you will:

- If vaccinated, submit your vaccination information. Nothing further will be required of you to be compliant with the Governor’s executive order.
- If not vaccinated, you will need to submit information about your weekly testing into the app or send testing information to the provided fax or e-mail address.

(Covid-19 Vaccination Requirement action flow chart is located on page 10.)

For detailed instructions on how to download the Covid Navigator App or how to submit the forms manually, and to access the appropriate forms go to the following webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DAS/Statewide-HR/Vaccine-App-Docs-Forms/Portal-Instruction-Covid-Navigator.pdf>

For additional state employee vaccination information, including answers to commonly asked questions about the program. you can go the following webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/Statewide-HR/Vaccine-App/SEVI>

July 9, 2021
through
September 30, 2021

Distributed bimonthly
to 5,500 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation
by the
Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Ned Lamont
Governor

Angel Quiros
Commissioner

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America's VetDog Program Expands to MacDougall-Walker CI

The MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution (MWCI) has gone to the dogs, America's VetDogs to be precise. In early June, MWCI became the second Department of Correction facility to participate in this unique program in which carefully screened inmates raise and train puppies who will one day work as service

dogs for disabled veterans. The program currently has dogs being housed and trained at the Osborn Correctional Institution as well.

The America's VetDog prison puppy program expanded to MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution (MWCI) from Osborn Correctional Institution (OCI). This unique program involves carefully screened inmates raising and training puppies who will one day work as service dogs for disabled veterans.

In an effort to help the program get established at the new facility, the first K-9 participants (Brady, Katie and Earl) were older (18-24 months) and already had



MacDougall-Walker CI's administration welcomes America's VetDog program. L-R: Captain Robert Bishop, Deputy Warden Damian Doran, Deputy Warden Lenny Ogando, Warden Kristine Barone, Deputy Warden Jeanette Maldonado, and Captain Michael Masse. Their K-9 friends are (L-R): Earl, Katie and Brady.

received extensive training. The Department's partners at America's VetDogs Veterans K-9 Corps determined that older dogs would be beneficial to help them train the newly assigned MWCI inmate K-9 handlers.

On September 9, 2021, the first three dogs moved on to the next phase of training and left the facility. On the same day, MWCI staff members received five more dogs including two 10-week-old puppies. Correction Officer Anna Marie Capasso has the difficult yet enviable job of assisting with the daily requirements of the dog training program.

This VetDog program not only provides vocational training to the incarcerated trainers, but it also has the added benefit of allowing the trainers the feeling of giving back something positive to society as well. Although the program is still new at MWCI, it is clear that it is having a positive impact on both the inmate population and staff alike. The America's VetDogs are excellent partners, and the MWCI administration is looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership.



Officer Anna Marie Capasso with Wally (L) and Desmond.

From the Commissioner cont. from page 1

For those unable to download the App on their personal phone or computer, I suggest you make arrangements to use a computer terminal within your assigned facility typically utilized for report writing or LMS training. Those using DOC desktops or laptops do not need to download the app and install it on DOC computers, just go to the following webpage to login: <https://ctstate.medikeeper.com/accounts/v8/97489/login>

In the event you experience technical difficulties downloading/accessing the Covid Navigator App you can call the DOC's IT department Help Desk at (860) 692-7695 or you can email the vendor, WellSpark, at statecovid@wellsparkhealth.com.

Some additional important information that I would like to emphasize:

- Agency staff members that have been testing on a weekly basis must continue to do so, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated or not.
- You must upload your proof of vaccination or weekly test results yourself. The vaccine or test provider will not do it for you.
- If you received your vaccination through DOC and have misplaced your vaccination card, you can obtain a new one by contacting Griffin Hospital at 203-433-3394 (choose option #4).
- While medical or religious exemptions may be requested, it is not necessary to do so as all current employees are permitted to test instead of being vaccinated even if they do not request or qualify for a religious or health exemption.
- Should you wish to pursue an exemption in any case, you must complete the request form that can be found on the state employee vaccination information website and provide all required supporting documentation.
- The Covid Navigator App has been certified to the highest level required to protect vaccination and testing status data.
- When using the App, you will be asked to provide a group code, please use **ctstate** .

The state has negotiated and signed a formal agreement with SEBAC on behalf of all bargaining units in regards to the Governor's Executive Vaccination Order. For all the details regarding the agreement, you can

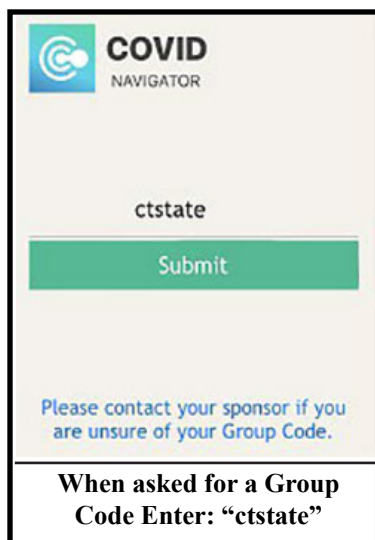
contact your union representative, or go to the following webpage: <https://www.ctstateemployees.org/news-interest/sebac-impact-bargaining-update-eo-13g>

Being vaccinated against COVID-19 is the most effective means of preventing infection and subsequent transmission to our fellow employees. Rates of severe illness leading to hospitalization and death are five to ten times higher for unvaccinated individuals.

As always, I encourage those of you who have not done so, to get vaccinated. Realizing that the choice is a personal one, failure of large numbers of employees to comply will have a direct impact on operations and safety and security in our correctional facilities.

For the safety of all involved, please download the app and submit the required information as soon as possible.

As always, I know I can count on your support and cooperation regarding this important matter.



Honor Guard Pays Tribute to Fallen South Windsor Officer

As a show of support for a fellow member of the law enforcement community, the Department of Correction's Honor Guard participated in the funeral services for South Windsor Police Officer Benjamin Lovett. Officer Lovett was riding his motorcycle while off duty in Tolland, Connecticut when he was struck by a drunk driver at the intersection of Crystal Lake and Hunter Road in the early hours of June 26. The drunk driver, 26-year-old Spencer Kraus, was allegedly on his way back from a night of drinking at the time of the accident. Officer Lovett clung to life in the hospital for nearly three weeks before succumbing to his injuries on July 13.



Captain Edwin Valentin (L) and Lieutenant Agnieszka Kloskowska (R) participated in the rifle squad honoring Officer Benjamin Lovett.

The funeral was held on July 21, at South Windsor High School, and included a final radio call and salute from the South Windsor Police Department to mark Lovett's years with the department. Hundreds of friends, family members, and fellow police officers gathered to honor the life of the fallen officer.

The manner of Officer Lovett's death was ironic as during his time with the South Windsor Police Department he worked to educate the public about the dangers of drunk driving. In fact, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) had planned to give Officer Lovett an award to acknowledge his efforts this coming September. A spokesperson for MADD said they plan to present the award posthumously to a member of Benjamin Lovett's family.

Around the Cell Block



CALIFORNIA - A federal judge on September 27, 2021 ordered that all correctional officers and staff entering California's prisons be vaccinated. The judge sided with a federal court-appointed receiver overseeing the medical care there and rejected efforts to block it by the Governor and the correction officers' union.

TENNESSEE - After robbing a convenience store a 39-year-old man ran to his minivan parked nearby. He drove onto the main road with no headlights, directly in front of a local police vehicle. The officer turned on her lights and the van continued to drive at 30 miles per hour. Within a minute, the van slowly pulled to the side of the road. Police say the van, unbelievably, ran out of gas.

MISSOURI - Visits for inmates in the Missouri Department of Corrections will resume on October 1, regardless of the visitor's vaccination status.

**Total CT DOC
Supervised
Population
on
September 30, 2021
12,709
On September 30, 2020
the population was
14,092**

Celebrating Women in Corrections



Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (R) is presented with a plaque of appreciation by members of the Women in Corrections Committee.

If the turnout by some 200 Department of Correction women is any indication, the first annual Women in Corrections Conference, held on August 5th and 6th at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, was a resounding success.

Fittingly during the course of the two-day leadership summit, there was an emphasis placed on the achievements and abilities of women.

The event included many of the traditional opening ceremony activities associated with conferences, such as the Honor Guard posting of the colors; the singing of the national anthem; and a pastor offering an invocation. What distinguished these tasks was the fact that they all were performed solely by women.

In fact, aside from the open remarks provided by Commissioner Angel Quiros, all of the presenters at the leadership summit were women.

There were a number of accomplished presenters during the conference including the State's Lieutenant Governor, Susan Bysiewicz; the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; Vannessa, Dorantes; and Waterbury Police Department Detective, Andrea Saunders.

Identifying, empowering, and preparing women in the Connecticut Department of Correction for leadership roles throughout the agency is the goal of the Women in Corrections Committee, and the Leadership Summit did just that.

A Large Supply of Good Will

Thanks to the hard work of the Department of Correction's Employee Wellness Committee and the generosity of the Agency's staff members, 470 school children received backpacks filled with school supplies in time for the start of the new school year.

Central Office won bragging rights for donating the most backpacks out of all the participating facilities, with an impressive 155 backpacks donated.

The backpacks were distributed in early August in New Haven at the city's Back to School Event, and at the Waterbury's YMCA Community Day.

Thank you to all the members of the Wellness Committee for all their hard work in making the backpack drive such a resounding success, and for representing the Department in a positive light within the community. Also, a big thank you to all those that contributed to this worthy cause.

The Department of Correction's Wellness Committee's private Facebook group is open to all Department employees and retirees. You can join the group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/327803897901191/>



Captain Alycia Cavanaugh (L) and Correction Officer Christina Feliciano are ready to distribute the supply filled backpacks to children in Waterbury.

National Addiction Professionals Day

A message from Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos

National Addiction Professionals Day was observed on September 20, 2021, as part of National Recovery Month.

In our lives both at work and personally, we see every day how prevalent problems with drugs and alcohol are in every state in the nation, but there is hope that the tide can turn if more people with alcohol and drug use disorders are given access to treatment. With steadfast determination and commitment, together, treatment and recovery from these chronic use disorders and diseases is possible. We have witnessed

the possibilities, we know that people in their communities and can make

The challenge we as correctional treatment to all who need it.

of Corrections inmates have

For many, alcohol and drug toll, but thankfully, no one

alone. Daily, throughout every women, and youth are entering

to recovery. Entire families are and are embracing recovery

counseling services. Right here in the are incorporating Medications for Opioid

Use Disorder (MOUD) rooms in the majority of our facilities -- helping those who need it directly and together we are making a difference. Looking back on the events of the past year, let me say that you are a remarkable group of addiction professionals, performing under these extreme circumstances. The ongoing pandemic has put a strain not only on providing treatment to those who need it in our facilities but on all of us as well. I am forever proud of the work you do every day, as well as, your unwavering commitment.

To that end, below is a list of resources available to our employees and their loved ones who may be seeking additional information.



recovery can and do rejoin their families, significant contributions to society.

professionals face is to bring that

More than 80% of Department

alcohol or drug use disorders.

use disorders take an enormous

has to face these problems

part of the United States, men,

treatment and beginning the road

breaking the cycle of addiction

through support programs and

The following is a list of the Department's Employee Assistance Unit (EAU) Substance Abuse Disorders (SUD) vetted program/resources.

Most of these programs offer either badge/uniform specific/first responder SUD programs.

- 1) Genesis House, Ed Chionchio, Florida 215-694-1994
- 2) Sunrise Detox 29 North Main St, Millbury, MA 01527 - 508-735-8058
- 3) Northeast Addictions Treatment Center, Quincy, MA 02169
- 4) Recovery Center of America, Westminster & Danvers, MA; NJ 978-571-6050
- 5) Addiction Campuses- Swift River- Cummington, MA 508-951-1690 Cell/ 24hr 888-512-3321
- 6) Marworth Treatment, Liz Walker, 100 Lily Lake Rd. Waverly, PA 203-733-5798
- 7) Honor Wellness- Phyllis DiGioia Manchester, CT 860-919-9762
- 8) Aware Recovery Center- Keith Abare, North Haven, CT 860-918-4999

Substance Abuse Disorder Programs continued

from page 6

- 9) FHE- Florida House Experience (Shatterproof First Responder), Sonny Silva, 505 S Federal Hwy #2, Deerfield Beach, FL 3441, 866-768-9792
- 10) Brattleboro Retreat, 1 Anna Marsh Ln, Brattleboro, VT 05302- (802) 257-7785
- 11) Mountainside Recovery, 187 S Canaan Rd, Canaan, CT 06018, (860) 824-1397
- 12) High Watch Recovery Center, 62 Carter Rd, Kent, CT 06757, (860) 927-3772
- 13) Gosnold on the Cape 200 Ter Heun Dr. Falmouth, MA 508-540-6550
- 14) Cape Cod Recovery Center- Scott Tobin, 760 Main St., Hyannis MA 02601, 617-598-2998

Opioid Overdose Prevention/Naloxone (Narcan)

Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a prescription medication that reverses opioid overdoses. It is a safe and easy to use medication that you can get from your doctor or a certified pharmacist. CT Medicaid and most commercial insurance cover naloxone, although there may be a co-pay or deductible. All 50 states now have naloxone access laws designed to make the medication more available. It is impossible to abuse naloxone as its only job is to reverse opioid overdoses. Naloxone is only effective on opioids (heroin, OxyContin, Vicodin, fentanyl, etc.) Persons given naloxone who have not overdosed on opioids will not be harmed. Persons dependent on opioids who are given naloxone will experience opioid withdrawal. In any overdose situation, 9-1-1 should be called and naloxone should be administered if opioids are involved or suspected to have been involved.

How Can Someone Get Naloxone?

Your primary care provider/family doctor can give you a prescription for naloxone that can be filled at any CT pharmacy.

Any provider who is able to prescribe you an opioid can prescribe you naloxone.

Pharmacists in CT who have completed training to become certified can both prescribe and dispense naloxone. <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Drug-Control-Division/Drug-Control/Naloxone-Pharmacies> (List of pharmacies in the state that can prescribe Naloxone.)

NEXT Distro a national organization that will mail a Naloxone kit to your house free of charge. The website also offers education about overdose and how to respond to an overdose emergency.

<https://nextdistro.org/>

DMHAS-funded Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs) can provide training as well as naloxone.

<https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Commissions-Councils-Boards/Index/Regional-Behavioral-Health-Action-Organizations-RBHAOs>

Region 1: **The Hub: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwestern CT**, A Program of RYASAP, Janice Anderson

Region 2: **Alliance for Prevention Wellness – BHCare**, Pamela Mautte

Region 3: **Supporting and Engaging Resources for Action and Change (SERAC)**, Michele Devine

Region 4: **Amplify, Inc.**, Allyson Nadeau

Region 5: **Western CT Coalition**, Allison Fulton

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/Prevention/RBHАОContacts.pdf>

Special Delivery at York CI

Thanks to the dedication, decisive action and professionalism of the healthcare staff at the York Correctional Institution, an expectant mother was able to successfully give birth to her child.

On the evening of September 17, 2021, a woman in her early twenties was admitted to the York facility. A medical assessment upon intake revealed the woman was approximately eight months pregnant. The woman was in physical distress, as she was suffering from opiate withdrawal. Additionally, she reported to have not



The Special Delivery Team (L-R): RN Chinomnso Ewelike, RN Heather Reddy, RN Patty Hawkins, RN Megan Capowski. Not pictured, but also assisting in the birth are RN Sunday Adesola, and RN Kristen Fernandez.

received any prenatal care.

The medical personnel at York took all necessary precautions to provide enhanced medical care and the decision was made to assign her to the medical unit where she could be closely monitored.

The next afternoon, at approximately 3:00 p.m., the woman informed the unit staff that she believed she was in labor. Medical staff immediately assessed her condition and called 911.

From that point on things progressed very quickly. Before an ambulance could arrive on scene, facility medical staff – which

included Registered Nurses: Sunday Adesola, Megan Capowski, Chinomnso Ewelike, Kristen Fernandez, Patty Hawkins, and Heather Reddy - delivered the baby in the medical unit.

Afterwards, the new mother and her baby were transported via ambulance to the local community hospital for further evaluation. Due to privacy laws, additional information about the mother or the baby cannot be disclosed.

Suffice it to say, thanks to the dedicated staff members at the York Correctional Institution, the mother and child received exceptional medical care. For example, the mother-to-be was assessed at a community hospital prior to intake at the facility, and had multiple contacts with nursing staff throughout the night. Her last assessment was just two hours before active labor, at which time she had no complaints.

“I am proud that our medical team was prepared to receive this woman, and she was able to get the necessary resources and attention which are required for a pregnant woman. Following policy and established protocols for expectant incarcerated mothers, our nursing staff safely delivered a baby during a situation where active labor to delivery was literally just a couple of minutes,” said Commissioner Angel Quiros. “I commend the facility custody and health services staff for the quick response and remarkable care they provided. They were true professionals approaching a very sensitive situation with decency, respect and grace.”

Garner CI Facility Awards

The staff of the Garner Correctional Institution took time out back in May to acknowledge the hard work of their peers during the annual facility Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony:



Members of the Garner CI Health Services Unit - Winners of the Facility's Special Appreciation Award

Garner CI 2021 Facility Award Winners

Unit of the Year – Garner CI Training Staff

Lt. Michelle Caballero, Lt. James Sciascia, Capt. Jose Matias, Capt. Felipe Lugo,
Deputy Warden Thomas Kenny, Correction Officer Anthony Blekis, Correction Officer Vincenzo Colombo

Counselor of the Year – Counselor Michael Cristaldi

Correctional Treatment Officer of the Year – CTO Keishaun Macklin

Employee of the Year – Officer Ambrose Stevens

Food Services Employee of the Year – CFSS3 Robert Mills

Maintenance Employee of the Year – GMO Edward Lagace

Supervisor of the year – Captain Felipe Lugo

Medical Staff of the Year – LPN Chassity Rosado

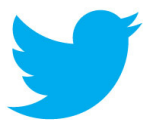
Mental Health Staff of the Year – Dr. Kathryn Carhart

Correction Officer of the Year – Officer Wanda Grant

Special Award of Appreciation – Health Services Unit

Teacher of the Year – SST Christopher George

Please join Warden Craig Washington in congratulating all the Garner CI award winners.



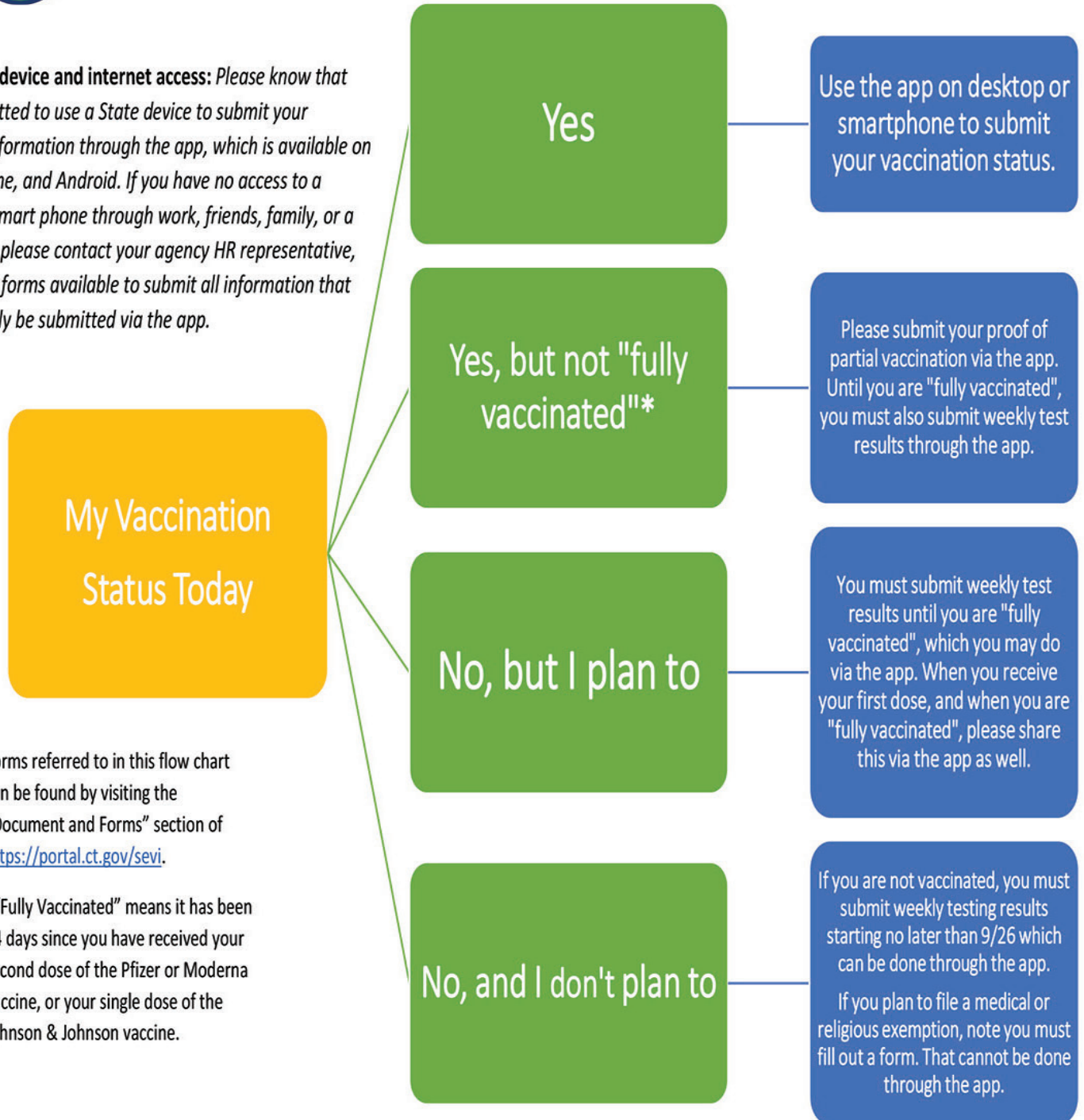
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State Employee COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements: Action Flow Chart

Prepared by the Department of Administrative Services, Updated 9/16/2021

A note about device and internet access: Please know that you are permitted to use a State device to submit your vaccination information through the app, which is available on desktop, iPhone, and Android. If you have no access to a computer or smart phone through work, friends, family, or a public library, please contact your agency HR representative, who will have forms available to submit all information that would normally be submitted via the app.



Forms referred to in this flow chart can be found by visiting the "Document and Forms" section of <https://portal.ct.gov/sevi>.

*"Fully Vaccinated" means it has been 14 days since you have received your second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or your single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.