

CVP Update

Keeping Connecticut Kids Healthy



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National Influenza Vaccination Week

As we head into the busy (and chilly!) winter season, we want to take a moment to thank you for your continued commitment to protecting our communities through immunization. Your efforts to educate patients, answer questions, and ensure access to vaccines make a real difference every day.



With National Influenza Vaccination Week (December 1–6) approaching, we encourage all providers to continue offering flu vaccines and reminding patients that vaccination remains the best defense against seasonal influenza. To support these efforts, additional flu clinics around the state can be found on the Connecticut Department of Public Health's (CT DPH) webpage.

Every conversation and every vaccination counts! Thank you for all you do to make them happen.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

COVID-19 vaccine remains readily available in CT. All providers are encouraged to place orders that align with their clinic's anticipated needs, especially if patients are asking for COVID-19 vaccination.

As a reminder, COVID-19 vaccines are not included in the <u>restitution</u> policy, so providers are not financially liable for unused product.

CT DPH recommends smaller, more frequent provider orders and limiting quantities to the amount of vaccine that can be utilized within a 4–6-week period.

Providers interested in receiving small transfers of COVID-19 vaccine may contact CT DPH for assistance.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling, or ordering, please do not hesitate to call or email CT DPH.

CVP Update December 2025

CT DPH Stands Up to Claims that Vaccines Cause Autism

On November 20, 2025, CT DPH issued a statement refuting the claim that vaccinations cause autism in infants. Decades of studies involving thousands of participants from around the world have shown no credible link between vaccination and the development of autism spectrum disorder. Studies suggesting a connection between vaccines and autism have been discredited or withdrawn.

CT DPH affirms the strong scientific evidence supporting vaccine safety and continues to recommend routine immunization as a critical tool for protecting children's health.

You can read the press release on the CT DPH website.

CVP Updates

Please see the holiday vaccine shipping schedule in the October 14th provider communication.

- Providers are strongly encouraged to order early during the winter holidays.
- Providers are also encouraged to maintain a minimum of 4 weeks of inventory to prevent vaccine outages if orders are delayed due to weather and/or carrier interruptions.



CVP or Connecticut Vaccines for Adults (CVFA) annual Re-Enrollment were due in CT WiZ on Friday, November 21, 2025.

- · All providers must re-enroll yearly in order to receive state supplied vaccines.
- If your clinic did not submit a 2026 re-enrollment, please do this as soon as possible to avoid any delays with future vaccine orders.
- For more information on the re-enrollment process, please visit our website.

Data Quality Corner

As of November 2025, Task Module sends a monthly (on 1st business day) email from NOREPLY-CTWIZ_TASKS@IISREGISTRY.NET notifying providers to review your **monthly Data Quality Assurance (DQA) Report in CT WiZ.**

• DQA (accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of data sent to CT WiZ) is essential for clinical decision support, improving vaccination rates, helping providers access records and utilize query and response to populate their electronic health record (EHR), and helping the public access complete, consolidated immunization records from the Public Portal.



Action Item:

Each month, view your DQA Report in CT WiZ:

- · Click on View Report. (Submit a helpdesk ticket for your permissions to be updated if you cannot open it).
- · Click on View Task. This is important as it saves the report and flags it for monitoring.

If indicated in your report, make updates in your system or train your staff; this will prevent you from continuing to submit the same error(s) from your EHR to CT WiZ.

- View DQA Error Details Report. Select field(s) with red % where DQA goal was not met.
- View HL7 Messages by ACK Message Report.

If no corrections are indicated that month, then keep up the excellent work!

Need Help?

View CT WiZ Training webpage: <u>CT WiZ Data Quality Assurance (DQA) Production Report.</u>
Submit a <u>Helpdesk ticket</u> - select: Immunizations (CT WiZ) - Clinic Administration - CT WiZ DQA Report Questions/Issues.

Reminder: when you login to CT WiZ, the news is posted right there on the home screen for you! This news includes important and helpful information that is time sensitive to all CT WiZ users.

The news, such as in this newsletter, are also sent by Everbridge email and posted on our <u>Provider Communications webpage</u>.

Stay up to date - don't pass by without reading the CT WiZ News!

Mind the Temp!

All temperature excursions must be documented, no matter how small or how brief!

A temperature excursion occurs when a storage unit goes outside the required temperature range for vaccine storage. As part of standard Immunization Program operations, CVP providers are required to report any temperature excursions that meet the following criteria:

- Temperatures above the acceptable range for 2 hours or more, or
- Temperatures below the acceptable range for any length of time.

If this happens, please follow the steps below:

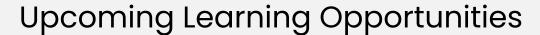
- 1. Quarantine and label any vaccines exposed to the excursion
- 2. Relocate the vaccines to a working storage unit
- 3. Contact the vaccine manufacturer for guidance
- 4. Document the excursion on the <u>Vaccine Storage Troubleshooting Record</u>
- 5. Report the excursion to the <u>DPH Ticketing System</u>
- 6. Report any wastage in CT WiZ
- 7. Download and review your digital data logger report

We recommend that providers download and review your digital data logger (DDL) report monthly. Monitoring trends can help identify temperature fluctuations early and prevent future excursions.

If vaccines must be discarded due to the excursion, follow CT WiZ wastage reporting procedures. Return wasted vaccines to McKesson, following CVP CT WiZ return instructions outlined in the Provider Agreement – item #15.

Maintaining consistent temperature monitoring helps ensure vaccine integrity and continued program compliance.

Of course, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 860-509-7929!



Register for the "<u>Current Issues in Vaccines"</u> webinar, hosted by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Vaccine Education Center, on December 3, 12:00pm-1:00pm. The topic of the webinar is "The Hepatitis B Birth Dose Revisited", featuring Paul Offit. Continuing education credits are available. <u>Register here.</u>

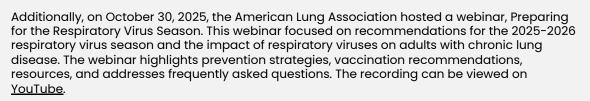


The Public Health Foundation (PHF) released <u>Fostering a Culture of Immunization in Your Practice</u>, an interactive and free online training that provides practical strategies for health professionals to build a strong culture of immunization and promote vaccination efforts across patient settings.

- This training may be helpful for VFC providers who regularly field questions or confusion from patients and/or their own clinic staff.
- Learn more about the course here and access it on the TRAIN Learning Network.

Webinar Recaps

In case you missed it, the Boston University Politics & Health Lab held a webinar, Vaccine Hesitancy: Past, Present, and Future, on October 7th, 2025. A recording of the webinar can be <u>viewed online</u>. This discussion explored vaccine hesitancy in the United States and how those in public health can better communicate with populations about the effectiveness of vaccines.







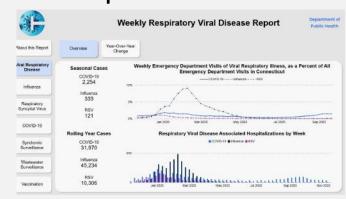
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Vaccine Preventable Diseases Update

The CT DPH Weekly Respiratory Viral Disease Report, including data on influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for the season can be found on our <u>website</u>.

The report includes data on cases, surveillance, and vaccination.

Data are updated weekly for the previous reporting week (Sunday - Saturday) and with preliminary data for the current reporting week.



Resources to Share

Talking Points from Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) <u>created a background and talking points</u> resource to help immunization programs respond to frequently asked questions from patients and partners.

The background section summarizes relevant studies on vaccines and autism that can be cited, as needed. The talking points are organized by topics such as autism causes, vaccine benefits, autism diagnosis rates in select populations, and the vaccine schedule. At the bottom of the resource is a list of relevant and helpful links to other resources.



Provider Guides from Immunize.org

Immunize.org recently updated its <u>1-page healthcare provider guide to meningococcal ACWY</u> vaccination and its <u>patient handout for 16-year-olds</u> that is co-developed and co-branded with their partners at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM).

Immunize.org also recently updated its 8-handout suite of 1-page vaccination guides for adults. The suite includes a general adult vaccination handout, in addition to one tailored for men who have sex with men, and six for people with common chronic health conditions. All guides now include current recommendations for all adult vaccines.

New Website from Vaccinate Your Family

Vaccinate Your family has developed a new website: <u>viraltruths.org</u>. The Viral Truths website offers trusted information and tools for parents, advocates, and public health professionals to take action. This microsite provides real-time fact checks on trending vaccine claims, a weekly Vaccine Intelligence Report, and a space to share stories about vaccine access challenges.

The site is designed to help everyone stay informed and empowered in today's fast-moving vaccine information landscape.

Employee Spotlight

Lisa Gagliardi is a Health Program Assistant with the Connecticut Vaccine for Children Program (CVP). Since she joined our team in October 2022, Lisa has played a key role in supporting providers with vaccine ordering, patient management, program enrollments, and CT WiZ training. Her 10 years of experience in home health care brings valuable experience to her work, and she is passionate about improving community health across Connecticut. You may have spoken with Lisa if you've called with questions regarding your vaccine orders or for help navigating CT WiZ!

Outside of work, Lisa enjoys spending time with her husband Nick, and their 3 children: John, Natalie, and Vinny, along with their French bulldog, Lucy. She loves hosting gatherings, volunteering at the American Legion in Berlin to support the Veterans, attending concerts, traveling with family, and decorating for Christmas (the earlier the better!).

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Thank you, Lisa, for all that you do!

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Provider Spotlight

Family Centers at Holly Hill in Greenwich, CT

Family Centers in southwest Connecticut has been busy this year – they onboarded a new CVP site at Turn of River Middle School, established a partnership with Sacred Heart University, and expanded to a new facility!

In Greenwich, CT, Family Centers recently underwent a major transition: relocating services from its former Greenwich Hospital and Wilbur Peck sites to a new facility at Holly Hill. During this process, clinic staff, led by Millie Gallego, demonstrated dedication, attention to detail, and commitment to patient care.



The medical team at Holly Hill with School-Based Health Center staff.

To ensure a seamless transition, clinic staff manually reviewed and verified vaccination records for their pediatric patients (every patient from 0-18 years) to confirm adherence to CDC immunization guidelines. Through this detailed, record-by-record review, they identified children who were due for physical exams, needed updated vaccines, or required re-establishing care. This thorough approach helped maintain continuity and quality of care for all families during a period of significant change.

The Holly Hill team prioritized strong communication and patient education, providing families with up-to-date CDC Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and clear guidance on how to continue care at the new location. Their proactive outreach ensured that all children remained current on preventive care and immunizations.



The medical team at Holly Hill in their new facility.

Additionally, the clinic successfully implemented a new temperature monitoring system with real-time alerts for vaccine storage units. Staff took personal initiative to respond to after-hours and weekend alerts, arriving on-site when needed to verify storage conditions and prevent potential vaccine loss.

In addition to their primary care facility, Family Centers also operates several School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in Stamford and Greenwich. These SBHCs help to bridge gaps in access to care by providing medical care – including immunizations – to all students at the location, regardless of income or healthcare coverage. Their commitment to hands-on follow-through and patient-centered service exemplifies the dedication and excellence that strengthen our state's immunization efforts.

We are glad to recognize the Family Centers team for their outstanding work and lasting impact on the health of their community.

Latest on Hepatitis B Vaccines

CT DPH reaffirms the recommendation for newborns to receive a hepatitis B vaccine.

- The Commissioner's full statement can be read on the <u>CT DPH website.</u>
- Additional communications will be shared in coming weeks.

Resources and Talking Points about Hepatitis B

- The Evidence Collective has created a document with key background information on issues likely to be raised and offers communication guidance. Download the brief here.
- Common Health Coalition has created a table outlining potential voting/outcome scenarios, the associated risks, and opportunities for action by sector. This table is iterative and intended for background information and planning purposes. View the table <u>here</u>.

Happy Holidays!



The CT DPH team wishes all our providers a happy holiday season. We thank you for your dedication to protecting the health of Connecticut's children and families.

As the season progresses, please remember that our team remains available to support you with any questions or technical assistance you may need. And as always, don't forget to review your vaccine management procedures and ensure your backup plans are up to date.

Thank you for your partnership, and happy holidays!









