



CVP Update



Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 Ended May 11th, 2023

On May 11, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ended the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. 270 million Americans received nearly 700 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines during this time, including the 8.6 million that were administered in the state of Connecticut.

Since December 2020, many groups participated in this effort including local health departments and other municipal departments, hospitals, FQHCs and other outpatient care providers, long term care facilities, vaccine manufacturers and distributors, pharmacies, CT DPH, CT National Guard and other State agencies, CDC and other Federal agencies, United Way and other non-profits, Schools, Colleges and Universities.

The costs of receiving COVID-19 vaccines and boosters will begin transitioning to traditional health care coverage, similar to the way these are handled for other types of illnesses and covered fully or in part by an individual's private or public insurance plan, or directly by consumers. However, it is anticipated that most private and public insurance plans will continue covering all costs of COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters without a co-pay or cost-share for consumers.

The federal government plans on distributing all of the remaining COVID-19 vaccines and boosters it currently has in its inventory to vaccine providers (such as retail pharmacies and health care providers), which are then provided to individuals at no cost, until that inventory is depleted or expires.

Although the PHE is ending, our fight against the virus in Connecticut will remain a priority. CT DPH will end its mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic program on June 30, 2023. Any organization interested in hosting a clinic before the program ends must submit a request to the department by June 19, 2023, at ct.gov/coronavirus. DPH will also be ending its homebound COVID-19 vaccination program on June 30, 2023. After this date, COVID-19 vaccines will be provided to individuals who are homebound similar to the way the seasonal influenza vaccine and other preventative health care services are offered. Individuals who are homebound should contact their health care provider to receive these services. To learn more, read Governor Lamont's statement about the PHE ending and how it will affect Connecticut residents [here](#).

Additional details and links to resource documents, including more information about COVID-19 testing and treatments, appear in the [HHS Fact Sheet on the end of the COVID-19 PHE](#).

The Connecticut Department of Public Health sends a big Thank You to all for their invaluable contribution.



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Providers can order FREE Educational Materials-Order from the Immunization program.

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CT WiZ Update



Currently, all providers are reporting electronically to CT WiZ through the user interface or their electronic health record interface for all (privately purchased and publicly supplied) vaccines for all ages per [state law](#).

- As of May 2023, all remaining providers have transitioned off VAMS, and VAMS is no longer in use in Connecticut.
- With all providers reporting electronically to CT WiZ, this helps ensure patients have timely, accurate and complete immunization records available to providers for improved clinical care, to DPH for assessments, and to patients for public portal access.

NEW RESOURCE:

[Guide to Running your own compliancy report using the CT WiZ Reminder Recall Report Module](#)

- Now that all providers are electronically reporting to CT WiZ, DPH is no longer mailing monthly compliancy reports (of children who turned 8 and 20 months old) to CVP providers. Providers are now responsible for maintaining accurate immunization records of their patient populations directly in CT WiZ themselves. To assist providers, we have created a detailed guide with step-by-step instructions on [how to run a reminder recall report \(R/R\)](#) using the same criteria used in the monthly compliancy reports.

REMINDERS:

Providers can promote the [CT WiZ Public Portal](#) to your patients:

- This can save your office time, by enabling patients the ability to access their own or their child's immunization record needed for summer camp, kindergarten enrollment, sports physicals, and more!
- Print and post this flyer in your office for patients:

[CT-WiZ-Public-Portal-English.pdf](#)

[CT-WiZ-Public-Portal-Spanish.pdf](#)



Data Quality Corner

Providers can make updates or corrections to your clinic information in CT WiZ as below.

This will also update the CT DPH listing of all enrolled Connecticut Vaccine Providers (CVP) on [our website](#).

To make clinic updates in CT WiZ, visit: [How can I update my role, clinic information and user account in CT WiZ?](#)

- You can submit requests to helpdesk to update your role and your associated clinic.
- You can update these details below directly in CT WiZ:
 - Clinic name and address
 - Phone number and fax number
 - Delivery hours
 - Clinic Staff (name, email, role, title, and training)
 - Main contact/shipping (can only be one main contact per location)
 - Contact administering vaccines and/or prescribing vaccines (will populate staff listing in user interface dropdowns after updated)
 - Changes to clinic name, address, and staff trigger a notification sent to the CVP for review and approval. You can check the Change Request History section on the page where you made the change, and the bell icon in the top right corner shows the status of the request.

REMINDER:

[CDC IIS Data Code Sets](#) provides the current immunization information system (IIS) codes and crosswalks to ensure your electronic health record (EHR) system is updated with the current code sets.

- **TIP:** Enter your email address on the CDC web page to receive updates to help you keep your EHR system updated to ensure accurate and complete reporting to CT WiZ.



Employee Spotlight



Alejandra Arias, Information Technology Analyst

Alejandra Arias is an information Technology Analyst 3 at the Connecticut Department of Public Health, who has supported the immunization program since 2014. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering from a university in Colombia her native country and has worked in the field of Information Technology for about 20 years. She also completed a specialization in project management (PMP) which she uses daily to coordinate and execute her routine activities with the immunization program. She is currently the leader of the CT WiZ EHR onboarding process that helps connect CT providers with our CT WiZ (IIS) system. She came to the United States in 2012 to be with her family and undertake new goals, dreams and proudly became a US citizen! In her spare time, Alejandra enjoys spending time with her family and friends, discovering new things, watching movies and series, listening to Latin music, eating good food, being active and traveling around the world.



Provider Spotlight

Stephanie Denya, Meriden Health Department



From left to right:
Michael Galluzzo, Office assistant, Anna Ryan, RN, Elizabeth Gomez, office assistant, Euvrena Heriveaux, RN Clinic Supervisor, and Stephanie Denya, MPH, RN, Associate Health Director.

Though the immunization records of most young children in Connecticut are complete and easily accessible in CT WiZ, this is not the case for many adults and adolescents. However, if you are or were a resident of Meriden, you may be in luck! Stephanie Denya, Associate Health Director at the Meriden Health Department, has been dedicated to ensuring that patients have easy access to their complete immunization record no matter their age. This effort started with the records of students who were leaving the high school. In Meriden, the school nurses work under the health department and with their help, Stephanie and her team would update student vaccine record in CT WiZ, adding any historical doses that were not listed before the students left. What started out with high school-aged patients soon expanded as Stephanie and her team noticed that there were thousands of records from residents, dating back to the 1940s, that were in their records. Stephanie wanted a way for residents to have quick and efficient access to their record and manually entering the records into CT WiZ using the user interface was the answer.

While this effort is still in process, great strides have been made and the impact is already being felt. Stephanie shared that “the biggest reward is having someone come into the health department that may have graduated from Meriden schools 20 or 30 years ago and we are able to go into CT WiZ and tell them we have their full record and that person can successfully go back to school. We are also able to then fill any gaps in immunizations for them right there at the health department and close the loop for that person.” Though time and resources are restraints, Stephanie is optimistic that with additional staff they can get the records for all residents into CT WiZ in the next few years. She also emphasizes this is a team effort and that everyone – from the state to local health departments to provider offices – need to be involved. “We all need to take time to provide additional education for parents on why it is important their child’s record is in CT WiZ. Providers also need to explain to staff that they are not trying to give them more work, but instead we are doing this because it helps patients in the future and allows them the ability to find their immunization record many years from now.”

Stephanie highly encourages everyone to take on a similar initiative and shares advice for those who want to start. The first piece of advice: start with the current patients. When a patient comes for a visit, take time to update their record in CT WiZ. Additionally, make sure all staff understand the importance of accurate data in the immunization information system. The second piece of advice: utilize the resources from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Stephanie encourages people to access the [CT WiZ trainings](#) frequently and highly recommends utilizing the help offered by the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) team. For the final piece of advice, Stephanie shares “It is all about the clients we serve. I would highly encourage other health departments to start doing this – start taking those charts and going through them and inputting the data into CT WiZ. It is the best thing for your patients.”