



CVP Update



National Influenza Vaccination Week is December 5-9th!



December 5-9th is [National Influenza Vaccination Week \(NIVW\)](#)! This week is annual observance to remind everyone 6 months and older that there’s still time to get a flu vaccine. Flu continues to pose a serious potential public health threat, and annual flu vaccination remains a critical tool to prevent flu and its potentially serious outcomes. View [the Local NIVW events](#) taking place across the state!

With influenza (flu) activity increasing nationally, and troubling early data showing drops in flu vaccine uptake this season, CDC is issuing an urgent reminder about the importance of flu vaccination. Over the course of the 2022-2023 flu season, CDC will share some preliminary, within-season, weekly flu vaccination data and coverage estimates using existing and new data sources through the [Weekly National Flu Vaccination Dashboard](#). The dashboard will be updated regularly throughout the flu season as new data become available.

Flu vaccination reduces the burden of flu illness, hospitalization, and death and getting vaccinated could also help protect those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine as soon as possible. Help us encourage flu vaccination for children by sharing these messages and resources with their parents.

Getting a [flu shot](#) for you and your child(ren) is the most important action a parent can take to prevent flu and its potentially serious complications in themselves and their child. Flu is more dangerous than the common cold for [children](#). Children younger than 5 years old and of any age with certain chronic health conditions, such as asthma and diabetes, are at a higher risk of potentially serious flu complications. Healthy children 5 years and older can spread flu to vulnerable family members like infants younger than 6 months and adults who are 65 years and older or people of any age who have certain chronic health conditions.

CDC has launched a digital campaign called “[Help Them Fight Flu](#)” to encourage parents of young children to get them vaccinated against flu. DPH encourages all CVP providers to use CDC’s materials to promote flu vaccination to your patients!

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Employee SPOTLIGHT

Natalie Anderson, Epidemiologist, Adolescent Vaccine Coordinator



Before officially joining the Connecticut Department of Public Health in January as an epidemiologist and the adolescent vaccine coordinator, Natalie worked as a Public Health Associate Program fellow for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and was stationed with our program. Natalie grew up in Waterford, CT and received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. She then went on to complete her Master of Public Health at Dartmouth College. Her favorite part of her job is collaborating with community partners to increase immunization access and education. Natalie lives with her fiancé, Ben, and their pet ferret, Rocket. In her spare time, Natalie enjoys crafting, watching Formula 1, traveling, and creating wedding content on TikTok, where she talks about planning her December 2023 wedding.



Data Quality Corner

There are NEW vaccines.

- Please review the [CVP Communications](#) about the new MMR and PCV15 vaccines and the [CoVP Communications](#) about the pediatric bivalent booster coming soon.
- To ensure you capture these new vaccines in your electronic health record (EHR) systems and that you are reporting these to CT WiZ, please visit: [CDC IIS Data Code Sets](#) that provides the current immunization information system (IIS) codes and crosswalks to ensure their 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. This will help you keep your EHR system updated to ensure accurate and complete reporting to CT WiZ.
- Check the [CT Vaccine Providers \(CVP\)](#) webpage for the '[Vaccines Supplied by the CVP Program](#)' to ensure you view the most current version.

Reminder:

- Updating your patients' cell and email will ensure they can access the [CT WiZ Public Portal](#) for their immunization record. Especially with holidays, they are accessing their records before they travel.

COVID-19 Vaccine Commercialization

Some of you may have heard in the news that the U.S. Government (USG) is working on a plan to commercialize COVID-19 vaccines. See the White House factsheet [here](#). While we don't have an official timeline or a finalized plan yet there are some key assumptions that providers can start to plan for.

Once COVID-19 vaccines are commercialized they will no longer be supplied by the USG at no cost through the COVID-19 vaccine program. However, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to order like other routine vaccines:

- 1) for children (under 19) vaccines will be available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
 - 2) for adults (19+) vaccines will be available for purchase on the commercial market and the USG is exploring an expanded Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program to supply vaccine for the under- and uninsured.
- Vaccine administration reimbursement rates are expected to change once the vaccine is commercialized and there is an end of the public health emergency (PHE) declaration.
 - No-cost ancillary supply kits will cease when the USG no longer supplies the vaccine.

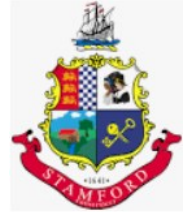
The plan for commercialization involves multiple agencies like Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and USG. CT DPH will share information as it becomes available. View this additional [resource](#) for more information.

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Danbury and Stamford Local Health Departments



When you think of “A Tale of Two Cities”, the first thing that comes to mind is probably the literary classic by Charles Dickens, but it is also the perfect summary of the pilot rapid community assessment (RCA) that has been taking place in Danbury and Stamford. The RCA process has several steps, including planning, training, data collection, analysis, and reporting results.



Over several weeks, leadership at the Stamford Department of Health and Danbury Health and Human Services worked with their teams, community partners, DPH, and CDC to plan and coordinate the RCA with the objectives of better understanding why children aged 2-5 are not up-to-date with their routine childhood immunizations, better understanding the barriers to vaccination, and better understanding where their communities were looking for vaccination information and access. While each town had additional populations of interest, both Danbury and Stamford wanted to focus on Hispanic residents as a priority for this pilot.

Just over two weeks ago, staff in both towns performed their data collection and went into their communities, performing listening sessions with organizations, having conversations with community partners about the barriers they heard from members of the community, and talking to numerous residents of the towns in intercept conversations to better understand their perceptions and the barriers they faced. These efforts took place all over their communities, from sessions at libraries and over Zoom, to quick interviews at shopping centers and malls. Each day, the teams debriefed after their data collection activities, sharing the things they heard from the community and starting to look at emerging themes. Despite each town having a different approach to their pilot, they both had the same feeling at the end: the RCA was a valuable tool to really hear the voice of their community and identify access barriers.

Data analysis is currently taking place, and both Danbury and Stamford will be working to compile their results. Stay tuned for Part 2 of this spotlight in our February issue to hear more about the results of this pilot and the experiences of each town!



Provider Re-Enrollment **due 12/12:**

Annual re-enrollment for all public and private health care providers who receive vaccine from the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) or the Adult Vaccine Program (CVFA) must re-enroll electronically in CT WiZ. If you have not completed your re-enrollment yet, please view our [re-enrollment page](#) for all the information you need, including links to our twice weekly office hours to answer any questions providers have about the re-enrollment process.



Reminder! If your clinic is not yet electronically reporting from your electronic health record or through the user interface, start the process by completing the [CT WiZ application online](#).

CT DPH will contact your clinics with the next steps and walk you through the process.

Providers can review the [overview](#) of the electronic reporting process of all vaccinations administered of publicly supplied and privately purchased vaccines. Please also view the [CT WiZ Onboarding FAQs](#).