

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

November 15, 2022

Dear pediatric healthcare providers,

On Friday November 4th the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [issued a warning to health systems](#) about early, elevated respiratory disease incidence, especially among children. Co-circulation of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2, and others could place stress on healthcare systems this fall and winter. Our children's hospitals, particularly the intensive care units, in Connecticut have already felt the burden of this wave of children with respiratory viral diseases. This early increase in disease incidence highlights the importance of optimizing respiratory virus prevention and treatment measures, including influenza and COVID-19 vaccination. CDC recommends that healthcare providers offer prompt vaccination against influenza and COVID-19 to all eligible people aged 6 months and older who are not up to date. Vaccination can prevent hospitalization and death associated with influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses. In addition, [emerging evidence](#) suggests that COVID-19 vaccination provides some protection against multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) and against post-COVID-19 conditions, and that vaccination among persons with post-COVID-19 conditions might help reduce their symptoms.

To assist you in your efforts to protect your youngest patients against COVID-19, the Department of Public Health Immunization Program has run "reminder-recall" reports for Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) enrolled practices. [Emails](#) were sent on November 8th from No-ReplyDPHIMMUNIZATIONS@ct.gov to all contacts at 407 practices across Connecticut where CT WiZ data indicates children ages 6 through 48 months are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine primary series. The email contained information and links to the report in CT WiZ which lists patients in the specified age group who appear to be not up to date. We encourage practices that received this report to review the information provided and leverage the information contained therein to recall patients for COVID-19 vaccine. We also encourage you to [co-administer both influenza and COVID-19 vaccines](#) to patients where both vaccines are needed.

The COVID-19 vaccine was recommended in June 2022 for children ages 6 months through 4 years. Six months in, only 12.1% of children in this age range have received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine. **Of children who are patients at a practice that administers COVID-19 vaccine, 12.5% have received at least one dose. Of children who are patients at a practice that does not administer COVID-19 vaccine, only 6% of patients have received a dose.**

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For providers who have not yet enrolled to receive COVID-19 vaccines, please don't wait another day. It is time to think of COVID-19 vaccines as routine practice, and we want to make sure you are aware of the following:

- Single dose vials are coming—but don't wait. At this point in time, it is far more important that patients be vaccinated than providers concern themselves with vaccine wastage.
- We are able to fill vaccine order quantities less than 100 doses through redistribution. Order whatever quantity you may need.
- [Pfizer vaccine](#) may be stored in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 10 weeks. [Moderna vaccine](#) may be stored in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days, or in the freezer between -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) until the expiration date.
- [All vaccine doses administered to your patients must now be reported to CT WiZ.](#) Enrolling to administer COVID-19 vaccines is no longer part of a broader decision that necessitates reporting of all vaccines, since all doses must now be reported.

If you did not receive an email from us at this time, we still encourage you to review and run [reminder-recall reports in CT WiZ](#). From time to time you may receive emails about specific reports that have been run for you by the Immunization Program. Please be on the lookout for emails coming from No-ReplyDPHIMMUNIZATIONS@ct.gov. If you have questions, please [contact us](#).

The Immunization Program will be hosting [COVID-19 reminder-recall office hours on November 17 at noon](#), for anyone who needs assistance accessing or interpreting the reports. Together, we can help protect children's health by ensuring they are up to date on their COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,



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