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Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2022 8:23 AM

Subject: Winter storm warning and reminder to safeguard your vaccine against power outages, December 22, 2022



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Subject: Winter storm warning and reminder to safeguard your vaccine against power outages

Date: December 22, 2022

Dear Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) and COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Providers,

This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 and CVP (pediatric) vaccines. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all of our communications are archived on our web site.

Given that a severe winter storm is predicted to hit Connecticut starting late on Thursday evening, we are reminding you to please be ready to implement your back up safety plans. Clinics should ensure your vaccine coordinator and back up will be notified immediately if power is lost at your facility and/or a storage unit goes outside of the acceptable temperature range. Providers without a back-up power supply may want to move vaccines to an alternate location with a consistent power supply before the storm (such as a local hospital, pharmacy, or fire station) if this can be safely achieved.

When you enrolled in the CoVP and CVP Programs, we shared information on [Vaccine Storage and Handling Resources](#), the need for an [emergency back-up plan](#), and available resources to support you to safeguard your vaccines, if you need to revisit those resources.

If a temperature excursion does occur, do not assume your vaccine is no longer viable. Report vaccine temperature excursions and/or vaccines wasted to the [Helpdesk](#) by following the prompts and submitting a ticket. Please store vaccines in the storage unit in a paper bag marked "do not use" until a determination about the viability of the vaccine has been made, in consultation with the manufacturer and the Immunization Program. Do not discard or administer affected vaccines until you have discussed the viability of such vaccine with each vaccine manufacturer.

A reminder to also update as appropriate your own social media platforms with information about clinic and/or call center closings.

We appreciate you and your staff taking the time necessary to safeguard all vaccines.

CT DPH Immunization Program

Main P: (860) 509-7929 | Fax: (860) 706-5429 | Email: dph.immunizations@ct.gov

Website: [CT Immunization Program](#) | [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

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WINTER STORM UPDATE DESPP/DEMHS 11:00 AM WED DEC 21, 2022 IMPACTS EXPECTED ON FRIDAY

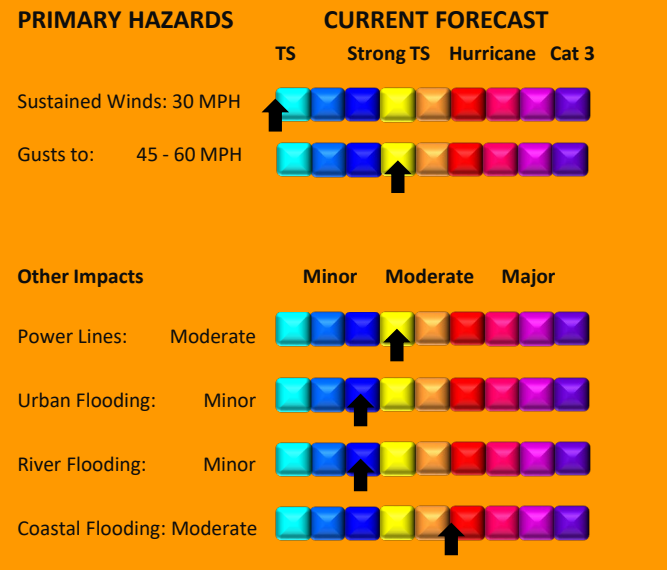
WEATHER MAP AT 2:00 PM FRIDAY AFTERNOON

POWERFUL STORM MOVING TO OUR WEST ON FRIDAY FORECAST TO GENERATE A LONG PERIOD OF STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY RAINFALL OVER ALL OF NEW ENGLAND...NO WATCHES OR WARNINGS ISSUED AT THIS TIME...

The latest models continue to forecast that a very strong winter storm will move thru the eastern Great Lakes on Friday. At the same time, a strong high-pressure system will be anchored northeast of Nova Scotia. A strong pressure gradient is expected to form over our area Thursday night and continue thru the day on Friday. In addition, bands of heavy rain well ahead of a strong cold front are also likely Friday morning.

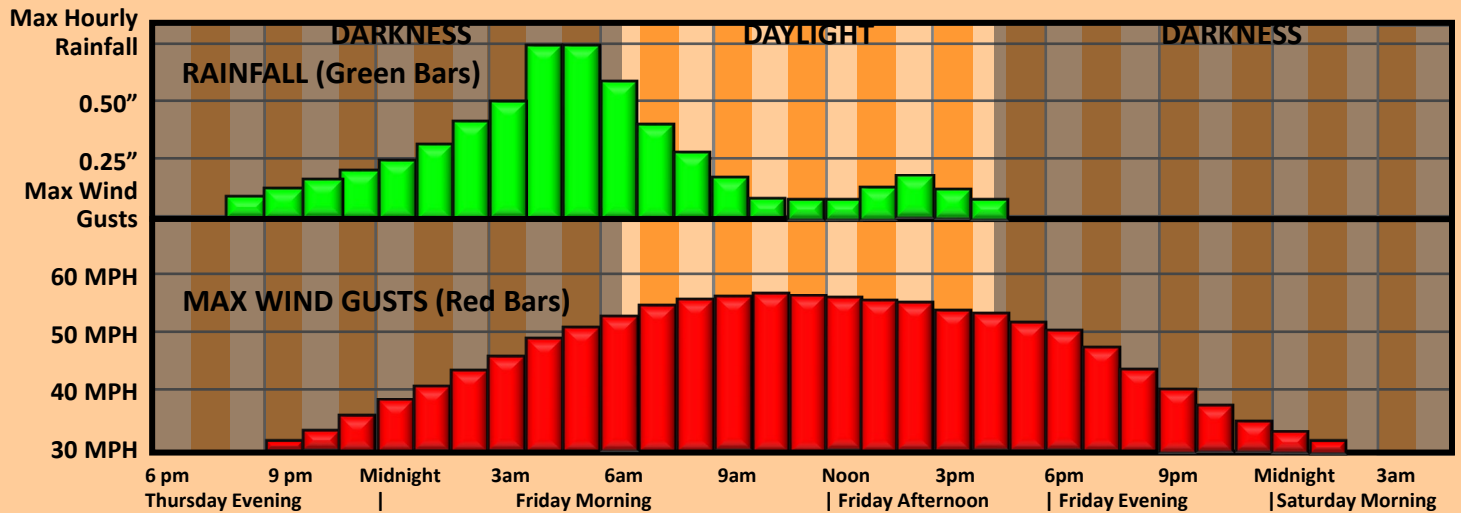
Strong southeast winds are forecast to gust to 45 – 60 MPH at times starting at midnight Thursday night and continuing during the day on Friday causing numerous power outages. The strongest winds are expected in eastern CT. The heavy rain (2" – 4") is likely to cause minor to moderate urban and river flooding. In addition, astronomical tides will be at their monthly highs and moderate coastal flooding may occur during high tide late Friday morning. Very cold air is forecast to move into the state Friday afternoon with wind chills near zero Friday and Saturday nights and temperatures remaining below freezing until next Tuesday. This may cause a hazard for any homes that remain without power over the weekend.

Confidence is high (see table below) that we will see at least minor to moderate impacts from this storm. Confidence is still low as to whether we will see moderate or major impacts. This storm is still two days away and some additional changes to the model forecasts are still likely. Another Update will be sent out by DESPP / DEMHS at 11:00 AM Thursday morning.



MAXIMUM WIND GUSTS AND HEAVY RAINFALL TIMING

HAZARD	Higher Confidence	Lower Confidence
Wind Gusts	40 – 60 MPH	60 – 70 MPH
Power Outages	Moderate	Major
Urban Flooding	Minor	Moderate
River Flooding	Minor	Moderate
Coastal Flooding	Moderate	Major



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