

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13C

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC –
COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION ACCESS**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut in response to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on several occasions since March 10, 2020 acting within my authority pursuant to Sections 19a-131 and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as Special Acts 21-2, 21-4, and 21-5 of the General Assembly, and in response to the continued need to respond adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic, I renewed the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued various executive orders to protect public health, limit transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is highly contagious and spreads more easily and quickly than other COVID-19 variants; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), the number of COVID-19 cases associated with the Delta variant and the overall rate of infection and hospitalization has increased significantly in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, while vaccination remains highly effective at preventing infection, severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19, including the Delta variant, breakthrough infection and transmission among vaccinated people are possible, and therefore is a critical tool to respond to and slow the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for DPH to disclose information regarding a COVID-19 vaccine recipient's immunization information to health care providers, school nurses, and local health directors for the purposes of reducing the spread of COVID-19 and increasing access, use, and the provision of COVID-19 vaccines; and

WHEREAS, to receive COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies from the State of Connecticut, vaccination providers are required to enroll in the federal COVID-19 Vaccination Program, coordinated through the DPH Immunization Program, by signing and agreeing to conditions in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement (the "Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, one of the conditions in the Agreement is that vaccination providers report certain data elements required by the CDC for each dose of COVID-19 vaccine and adjuvant, if applicable, administered, to the relevant state, local, or territorial public health authority within twenty-four hours of administering such vaccine dose and adjuvant, if applicable; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to allow for the use of an additional dose in certain immunocompromised individuals, specifically, solid organ transplant recipients or those who are diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise; and

WHEREAS, the provision of vaccine boosters by health care providers will require the ability to accurately authenticate the recipient's vaccine history, including type of vaccine administered, time of administration; and

WHEREAS, health care providers can use vaccination data to conduct outreach to their patients and direct and personal outreach from a clinician has been shown to be one of the most important and effective interventions to improving vaccination rates; and

WHEREAS, school nurses need access to vaccination status and other information to quickly implement the appropriate COVID-19 control measures; and

WHEREAS, local health directors are responsible for COVID-19 investigation and control measures for community spread of COVID-19 and need access to vaccination records to conduct effective investigations and COVID-19 control measures including increasing access and use of COVID-19 vaccines; and

WHEREAS, vaccines are widely available in Connecticut and immunization is the most effective method for preventing and mitigating infection from COVID-19, including possible hospitalization or death; and

WHEREAS, Section 19a-7h of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the Department of Public Health to collect and maintain data related to childhood immunization and to disclose vaccination information to authorized recipients but requires modification to allow limited disclosure of an adult’s COVID-19 vaccination information to protect the public health;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **COVID-19 Immunization Information Access.** Section 19a-7h of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified by the addition of the following subsections:
 - a. Notwithstanding any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Public Health may disclose information reported to the Department of Public Health regarding a COVID-19 vaccine recipient’s immunization information, for the purposes of reducing the spread of COVID-19 and increasing access, use and the provision of COVID-19 vaccines, to (1) a health care provider of a vaccine recipient or potential vaccine recipient; (2) each school nurse at a public or private school in any town, city or school district; (3) local health directors and other public health authorities to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts within their jurisdictions. For purposes of this subsection “health care provider” means (1) physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants licensed by the Department of Public Health and (2) any health care organization that is providing COVID-19 vaccines under a Center for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement or an officer, employee or agent thereof acting in the course and scope of his or her employment.
 - b. The Commissioner may issue policies and procedures necessary to administer the disclosure of COVID-19 immunization information including but not limited to the specific information to be disclosed, the means and timing of such disclosures, and the means by which COVID-19 immunization information is disclosed to recipients. The Commissioner may use existing Department data systems and resources to implement the provisions of this Order. Such policies and procedures shall not constitute regulations as defined in Section 4-166 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

This order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect through September 30, 2021 unless earlier modified or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 19th day of August, 2021.



Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

