



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



March 8, 2021

Dear Superintendents:

Your ability to quickly plan vaccination clinics with state and local public health and other vaccine partners has been impressive, and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) appreciate your continued leadership in this area.

Please note the following:

Changing Clinic Plans

Please be reminded that DPH and local public health leaders are very carefully coordinating vaccine allocations. Therefore, if any school clinic plans change (e.g., fewer appointments than originally anticipated) **please communicate any changes immediately with your local health director and vaccine provider**, and do not expand clinic eligibility to other districts or populations unless instructed to do so.

Vaccination Data

The issues around collecting vaccination data for staff are complex, raising questions about privacy that should be discussed locally in conjunction with district legal counsel. For instance, employers such as school districts will need to consider what information is made public or shared and with whom, and carefully navigate the interplay with potential staff legal accommodations, among other things. **The CSDE and DPH are not requesting or recommending that you request all staff disclose vaccination information** for the purposes of state data collection. Data collected on staff *interest* in vaccinations should also not be held out as a comprehensive picture of who is *actually* vaccinated. The list may not include those who had already been vaccinated based upon age, vaccinations obtained not through school planned clinics, and missed appointments. Additionally, we recommend against public posting of names and vaccination information.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine

Effective contact tracing does not require knowing the vaccination status of *all* staff in advance, and can be ascertained after they are identified as a close contact. Districts should be assisting in identifying close contacts and coordinating with their local health partners for effective contact tracing and quarantine determinations. For additional guidance for employers, see: [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Section K](#).

Message from the United States Department of Education

You may be aware of a recent communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education that addressed the utilization of pharmacies as partners in prioritizing vaccinations for education and child care sectors. Please rest assured that Connecticut is already a national leader in providing access to vaccines for educators, school staff, and child care providers, with hundreds of clinics scheduled in the month of March. The CSDE and DPH are supportive of the message,

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but school leadership should not anticipate any changes to Connecticut's current vaccination implementation plan for educators and child care providers. **We encourage education staff to avail themselves of the clinics being held specifically for them whenever possible**, so that pharmacy appointments remain available to others eligible in the community.

Please know that we stand ready to continue to support you in your efforts to ensure healthy and safe school communities.

Sincerely,



Deidre S. Gifford
Acting Commissioner
Department of Public Health



Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Acting Commissioner
CT State Department of Education