



STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlene Russell-Tucker".

DATE: February 27, 2021

SUBJECT: School-based Vaccine Update

Thank you for participating in Friday morning's school-based vaccine update webinar. After much anticipation, we will begin meeting our shared goal of vaccinating the Connecticut school and childcare workforce during March.

During our discussions with state partners on the Friday call, the question was raised whether school districts that are using Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) as the scheduling platform with their vaccine provider could upload rosters prior to March 1.

While we certainly understand the complexity of implementing and timing vaccine rollout for school and childcare staff, the decision was made to maintain the previously established timeline for the VAMS upload, **Monday, March 1**. This is to ensure alignment with the intent of the phased-in approach for eligibility categories.

Please be reminded, if you are planning with your local health department or other vaccine provider to utilize alternate scheduling platforms (e.g., MyChart) in lieu of VAMS, please continue to follow their instructions and use the appointment scheduling system that they identified. Additionally, we join the Department of Public Health (DPH) in strongly encouraging school staff members to take advantage of the specific clinic(s) that you are developing to ensure access for your school community.

Additionally, thank you to those who completed the survey regarding your district plans for vaccination. From the survey respondents, we know that many of you are already coordinating with local health or other vaccine providers to establish employer-specific clinics to ensure dedicated access to vaccines for your staff.

If you are among the districts that indicated plans are not currently in progress or in place for a vaccination plan with your local public health department or other vaccine provider, the Connecticut State Department of Education has coordinated with DPH to connect you with vaccine partners. These vaccine partners will be contacting you in the next few days, using the contact information you provided in the survey, to discuss setting up systems and clinics to vaccinate your staff. These providers include Yale Health, Hartford Health Care, CHC, Inc., and others in your geographic area.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our school communities, and for your ongoing collaboration as we secure details from our public health partners on plans for vaccine access for our school and childcare staff. We will continue to communicate with you any additional information available this weekend and during the week.