Immunization Standard of Care for Connecticut Residents (9/28/2026)

Purpose:

This document sets forth Connecticut's immunization standard of care and provides information to health care providers, schools, local health departments, and other immunization partners regarding the schedules and recommendations that apply to all Connecticut residents.

The standard of care establishes the framework for immunization recommendations in Connecticut and clarifies the legal authority, applicable immunization schedules, school immunization requirements, vaccine access and Connecticut Vaccine Program requirements, and the Department's continued commitment to evidence-based immunization practices.

Key Points:

- Connecticut's recommended immunization schedules, child care, and school requirements remain unchanged and continue to be based on long-standing, evidence-based recommendations consistent with state law and the established standard of care.
- Vaccines remain available and covered by insurance, including Medicaid and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program; residents should not delay vaccination due to concerns about access or cost.
- Residents are encouraged to talk with trusted health care providers about the benefits and risks of vaccines, recognizing that all vaccination decisions are made through shared clinical decision-making grounded in scientific evidence.

Connecticut Law and the Immunization Standard of Care:

Connecticut statutes establish the authority and responsibility for determining the immunization standard of care for residents of Connecticut.

Connecticut General Statutes § 19a-7f as amended by Public Act 26-3 sets forth the authority of the Commissioner of Public Health to:

- Determine the standard of care for immunization of Connecticut residents; and
- Base that standard of care on consideration of the recommended immunization schedules published by:
    - The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP);
    - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP);
    - The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP); and
    - The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG);
- Include schedules recommended by the Commissioner for immunization and contraindications to the administration of vaccines in accordance with such schedules.

Consistent with this law, Connecticut will continue to follow evidence-based immunization schedules. The schedules below are included in the Connecticut Immunization Standard of Care and should be followed by health care providers, schools, local health departments, and other immunization partners and applicable stakeholders:

The AAP Immunization Schedule reflects the appropriate standard of care for infants and children in Connecticut including catch-up immunization schedules:

- AAP Immunization Schedule can be found: https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf
- AAP Immunization Schedule Contraindications and Precautions are found in the Appendix of the Schedule, pages 15-17.

The AAFP Immunization schedule reflects the appropriate standard of care for adults in Connecticut:

- AAFP Immunization Schedule: https://www.aafp.org/clinical-insights/immunizations-and-vaccines/immunizations-schedules-resources/adult-immunization-schedules
- AAFP Immunization Schedule Contraindications and Precautions are found in the Appendix: https://www.aafp.org/clinical-insights/immunizations-and-vaccines/immunizations-schedules-resources/adult-immunization-schedules#Appendix

The ACOG Maternal Immunization Schedule reflects the appropriate standard of care for pregnant people in Connecticut. Providers should also consider the contraindications and precautions listed for pregnant people and for adults with other conditions, as described in the AAFP Immunization Schedule above.

- ACOG Maternal Immunization Schedule: https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/maternal-immunization-schedule
- ACOG Maternal Immunization Schedule Contraindications and Precautions are found on page 1.

For the 2026-2027 respiratory viral season, please see the reference document below for a summary of recommendations for respiratory vaccinations from the sources listed above.

- 2026–2027 Respiratory Virus Immunization Recommendations: https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/respiratory-virus-immunization-recommendations.pdf

Guidance for Health Care Providers: Health care providers should use the Connecticut immunization standard of care and DPH guidance when determining the recommended immunization schedule for their patients. Providers should use their clinical judgment and consider each patient's medical history, risk factors, contraindications, precautions and other individual circumstances.

Providers should continue to discuss the benefits and risks of vaccination with patients and families and use shared clinical decision-making when appropriate. https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/

Immunization Standard of Care's Relationship to Other Connecticut Immunization Laws

Connecticut's immunization requirements for schools, institutions of higher education, and vaccine programs are based on the Connecticut immunization standard of care established under CGS § 19a-7f. These requirements continue to apply along with any related state laws and regulations.

Child Care Immunization Requirements: Child care immunization requirements in Connecticut are established by regulations of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) under state law Connecticut General Statutes § 19a-79. Before attending a child care center or group child care home, each child must be adequately immunized for their age against required vaccine-preventable diseases. Child care providers should use the applicable OEC regulations, the Connecticut immunization standard of care, and DPH guidance when determining whether a child meets the state's immunization requirements for child care.

School Immunization Requirements: School immunization requirements in Connecticut are governed by state law: Connecticut General Statute 10-204a and regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Children attending Connecticut public and nonpublic schools must meet the state's immunization requirements for school enrollment and attendance. The required vaccines and definitions of adequate immunization are based on the schedules included in Connecticut's immunization standard of care and applicable state regulations. Existing requirements for school enrollment and attendance remain in effect unless changed through the appropriate state regulatory process.

The provision of a medical exemption from a school immunization requirement is done by the provider completing the Student Medical Exemption Certificate for Required Immunizations form required under Connecticut General Statutes 19a-7q. In addition, Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-7h requires each healthcare provider who has provided a child with a form to file a copy of the form with the Department.

- A secure, web-based portal has been established by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) to create and collect medical exemption information form. The portal is available here under the "Login Required", "Medical Exemption Immunization" section: https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/. First time users of the portal must request to "Register as a Submission User."

Higher Education Immunization Requirements: Immunization requirements for students attending Connecticut institutions of higher education are governed by state law Connecticut General Statutes § 10a-155 and 10a-155b. These requirements are also based on the schedules included in the Connecticut

immunization standard of care. Institutions should use the standard of care and DPH guidance when determining whether a student meets Connecticut's immunization requirements.

Vaccine Availability and Access: Connecticut law authorizes DPH to establish programs that support access to vaccines and vaccination services for children and adults, within available funding. Individuals seeking vaccination should confirm coverage with their health plan.

- For children, DPH provides all routinely recommended childhood vaccines at no cost to participating health care providers for administration to all children through the pediatric Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP). This helps ensure that the cost of the vaccine does not prevent children from receiving recommended vaccinations.
- For adults, vaccinations may be available at their health care providers, pharmacies, or local health departments. Additionally, DPH provides some routinely recommended adult vaccines at no cost to participating eligible health care providers for administration to uninsured and underinsured adults 19 years and older through the Connecticut Vaccine for Adults Program (CVFA).
- Vaccines remain covered by public and private insurance plans, including Medicaid and the federal Vaccine For Children Program, consistent with federal and state law. Families should not delay or forgo vaccination due to concerns about coverage or availability.