



CVP Update

Keeping Connecticut Kids Healthy



In This Issue

Pg. 1. April Immunization Awareness Weeks

Pg. 2. CT WiZ Updates

Pg. 2. Measles Update

Pg. 3. Data Quality Corner

Pg. 3. CVP Updates

Pg. 3. Webinar Opportunity

Pg. 5. Provider Spotlight

Pg. 5. Employee Spotlight



<https://portal.ct.gov/immunization>



860.509.7929



DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov



410 Capitol Ave, MS #11 MUN, Hartford, CT 06134

April Immunization Awareness Weeks

During a time when the US is facing measles outbreaks, vaccine misinformation is spreading and public confidence in vaccines is decreasing – raising awareness about the importance of childhood vaccinations is critical. News reports about potential changes to immunizations can be confusing, especially for parents. We need to work together to reassure parents that following the guidelines set in the immunization schedule is the best way to protect children from preventable illnesses.

This month, there are two national immunization awareness weeks that we encourage you to join us in sharing key messages to your patients and their parents to reinforce the importance of vaccines and reminding parents that your team is available to answer questions.



Adolescent Immunization Action Week

Adolescent Immunization Action Week (AIAW) is April 7-11th. AIAW has become a national movement for action to ensure adolescents are up to date on all recommended vaccines. AIAW urges you to act to keep adolescents current on well visits and immunizations.

Here are suggested actions for AIAW to remind, recall, and schedule immunizations:

- Contact families who have missed adolescent well-visits or immunizations
- Check vaccination status during all adolescent visits
- Listen to parents’ and adolescents’ concerns and deliver confident, concise, and consistent (3Cs) vaccine recommendations
- Make scheduling vaccine appointments convenient (e.g., clinics during school vacations)
- Co-administer recommended vaccines to avoid having families schedule multiple visits
- Share #AIAW25 and partner with health departments, organizations and/or schools

Let’s work together to protect adolescents from vaccine-preventable illnesses and set them on a path to a healthy future.



National Infant Immunization Week

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is April 21-28th. National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is a yearly observance held in April, highlighting the importance of protecting children two years and younger from vaccine-preventable diseases.

All staff in healthcare practices, including non-clinical staff, play important roles during NIIW. To highlight childhood immunizations this NIIW, learn [**tips for talking with parents**](#) about childhood vaccines.

Find more [**actionable strategies, resources, and data**](#) to support getting all Americans back on-schedule with their routine immunizations to protect everyone from vaccine-preventable disease and disability.

CT WiZ Updates

CT WiZ Confidentiality Agreement Electronic Process:

Starting April 15, 2025, all authorized users of CT WiZ will receive prompts, with due dates, to electronically sign their CT WiZ Confidentiality Agreements renewal.

- Per State law, this Agreement must be signed upon initial access and renewed every two years.
- As we are switching to a fully electronic process, upon login, users will receive prompts with due dates to view the Agreement, 'Click to Accept', and Click 'Save' to electronically sign in CT WiZ.
- This efficient process will enable automated reminders in CT WiZ upon login. Reminders include CT WiZ notifications, pop ups, and emails.

Important Notes:

- Even if you recently signed an Agreement just before April 15, 2025, **all users must electronically sign this renewal** per the due dates of the prompts in the system.
- CT WiZ usernames **will be inactivated if they do not electronically sign** the CT WiZ Confidentiality Agreement by the due date. For support, please submit a [**helpdesk ticket**](#). Users will be prompted to electronically sign the Agreement before username re-activation.

Reminder: To ensure confidentiality of CT WiZ data, please review this process: [**How to Report a Cyber Threat Incident to Ensure Security**](#) found on our CT WiZ Training website.

Promoting Interoperability Update:

If you are attesting to Promoting Interoperability, for information about public health reporting requirements to CT WiZ and to find the '2025 Project Status Letter' please visit our website: [**Promoting Interoperability**](#) found on our CT WiZ Onboarding website. If you need additional support, please submit a help desk ticket (select system: Immunizations (CT WiZ) - category: EHR Data Exchange - topic: Meaningful Use/Promoting Interoperability).

Measles Update

Measles (rubeola) is a highly contagious disease; one person infected with measles can infect 9 out of 10 unvaccinated individuals with whom they come in close contact. As of April 3, 2025, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that since January 1, 2025 there have been **607 confirmed cases** with 74 hospitalizations and 2 measles-related deaths. Most (97%) of these cases have been in children who were unvaccinated, under-vaccinated, or of unknown vaccine status. Cases have been reported in 22 jurisdictions, including active outbreaks in Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Ohio, and Oklahoma. For comparison, in 2024, 285 cases were reported. [Texas reported an additional death in an unvaccinated child that is not yet reflected in the CDC data above.](#)

Vaccination remains the most effective means of preventing measles and reducing its spread within communities. The CDC strongly recommends that children receive the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine according to the recommended schedule. Connecticut has high vaccination coverage, with 97.7% of kindergarten students up to date with MMR vaccination during the 2023-24 school year. The last reported cases of measles in Connecticut occurred in 2021 and were associated with international travel.

For further guidance, please review recent communications to providers on our website:

- [CDC HAN Health Advisory 3-12-25](#)
- [Measles Outbreak Update - Guidance for CT Providers 3-5-25](#)

Measles Update (Cont.)

Additionally, please see the DPH's [message to residents to stay up to date](#) on their measles vaccination.

To assist CVP providers in bringing your pediatric patients up to date on recommended vaccines, **DPH ran reminder/recall reports in CT WiZ on April 3rd for MMR** on children ages 4–7 years who may have 0 or 1 dose of MMR and need additional dose(s) to complete their series and be up to date. Please keep an eye out for a communication regarding this.

As a reminder, you can run your own reminder/recall reports at any time in CT WiZ. Please view these training materials for support: [Reminder Recall Reports in CT WiZ](#).

Data Quality Corner

Are your VISs Current?

CDC posted revisions to 17 VISs, dated January 31, 2025. Visit: [Current VISs](#)



- ☐ [Cholera](#)
- ☐ [COVID-19](#)
- ☐ [Dengue](#)
- ☐ [Ebola](#)
- ☐ [Hepatitis A](#)
- ☐ [Hepatitis B](#)
- ☐ [Influenza, live](#)
- ☐ [Influenza, recombinant](#)
- ☐ [MMR](#)
- ☐ [MMRV](#)
- ☐ [Meningococcal AWCY](#)
- ☐ [Meningococcal B](#)
- ☐ [Polio](#)
- ☐ [RSV](#)
- ☐ [Smallpox/Monkeypox](#)
- ☐ [Tdap](#)
- ☐ [Varicella](#)

Visit: [Immunize.org](#) to help you provide current VISs to your patients before vaccinating them.

As reminder, **You Must Provide Patients with Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)** – It’s Federal Law. Federal law allows up to 6 months for a new VIS to be used.

On-Hand Inventory and Adjustments Reminder:

Adjustments should only be used for instances such as: broken vials, partial vials or vaccine that has been drawn but not administered. Adjustments should not be used for doses administered. If doses have been administered, they must be accounted for in the reconciliation.

- Please [click here](#) for website trainings on adjustments.
- For additional help with accounting for administered doses in your reconciliation, please [submit a help desk ticket](#) (select system: Immunizations (CT WiZ) – category: Clinic Administration – topic: CT WiZ Training and Inventory Support – subtopic: CT WiZ Inventory Management).

CVP Updates

The Connecticut Immunization Program was affected by the federal termination of grants, please see the Governor’s press release on impacts of these funding cuts here: [Governor Lamont: Trump Administration Cuts Will Have Sweeping Impact on Public Health, Mental Health, and Addiction Services in Connecticut](#).

Impacts to the Immunization Program primarily included the loss of many of our IT consultants, contracts with Local Health Departments and planned enhancements to CT WiZ. We want to assure our CVP providers that:

- **CT WiZ is not being eliminated.** While there will be some impacts to CT WiZ (planned enhancements to modernize CT WiZ and staff that worked to maintain our high data quality and provider onboarding), the CT WiZ system is not going away.
- **CVP vaccine distribution is not currently impacted.**

We remain committed to supporting our providers and maintaining the core functions of the Immunization Program, even as we navigate these challenges.

Webinar Opportunity

The American Lung Association and Connecticut Immunization Coalition are conducting a free webinar, [Why Are We Still Talking About Pertussis?](#)

The featured presenter is Marietta Vázquez, MD FAAP from Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Vázquez will discuss pertussis updates, vaccination recommendations, coverage and more.

- Date: April 22, 2025
- Time: 11am–12pm Eastern
- Audience: Public health and healthcare professionals

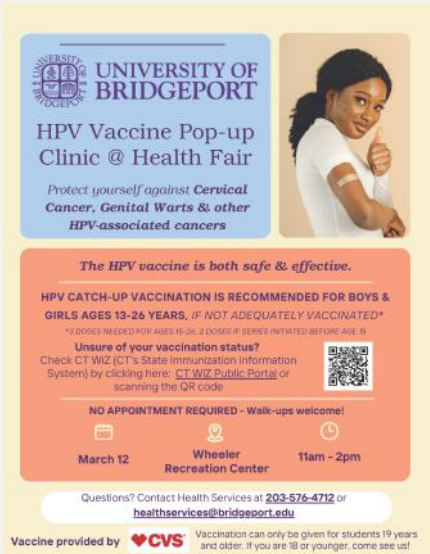
Provider Spotlight

The University of Bridgeport HPV Vaccination Pop Up

Organizing a successful vaccination event takes teamwork, dedication, and a commitment to public health: something the University of Bridgeport (UB) and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Work Group showcased with its HPV Vaccination Pop-Up held on March 12, 2025. Held during an on-campus health fair, this event was a collaborative effort aimed at increasing HPV vaccination rates, which have fallen behind in recent years due to the impact of COVID-19.

Planning for the event began in October 2024 and involved bringing together a wide range of partners, including CVS, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Cancer Partnership Program, and Maggie Litwin’s team at Southwestern Area Health Education Center (SW AHEC). These groups joined forces with UB’s student organizations, local healthcare providers, and members of the Connecticut HPV Coalition to make the pop-up a reality.

At the event, CVS administered vaccines, while Physician Assistant (PA) student volunteers played a crucial role in educating attendees. To prepare, these students attended a training session two weeks prior, where they learned about CT WiZ and received an in-depth briefing on the HPV vaccine from a local medical provider. Their efforts helped ensure students and community members had accurate information to make informed decisions about their health.



Over the course of the day, more than 100 people, including students and older adults, visited the pop-up, engaging in conversations about HPV vaccination and cancer prevention. Katie Shuttleworth, a CT DPH Comprehensive Cancer Program Coordinator, provided education on HPV as well as other means of cancer prevention. Five students received their HPV vaccine on-site, while many others learned about their immunization status through CT WiZ and received guidance on next steps.

This initiative underscored the impact of positive partnerships in public health. Securing buy-in from UB leadership, local pharmacies, student groups, the health department, and providers was key to the event’s success. Outreach efforts, including flyers distributed through student organizations, helped spread awareness and drive engagement.

Looking ahead, this partnership hopes to build on this momentum by hosting another pop-up in the fall, potentially expanding it to include flu and COVID-19 vaccines. By combining education with accessible vaccination opportunities, the University and its partners are working to close immunization gaps and keep the community healthier, one shot at a time.

Employee Spotlight

Claudia Gutierrez, Epidemiologist

Claudia Gutierrez is an Epidemiologist in the Immunization Program at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Claudia received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Barnard College. She began her career in public health in 2015 when she took a temporary position within Infectious Disease (ID) at DPH. During her time in that role, she worked doing data entry, Zika virus surveillance and flu surveillance.

In October of 2020, Claudia was officially hired as a state employee. She is part of the vaccine preventable disease team and is also the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Coordinator for the state of Connecticut.

Outside of work, Claudia enjoys cooking, traveling, and going to the movies. On her most recent adventure, she went to Peru (where she’s originally from) with her husband, Matt, to visit family and take her in-laws sightseeing. She also loves spending time with her friends and family, especially her nieces and nephews. At home, she loves to relax with Matt and their three “fur-babies”, Mariah, Leah, and Lana.

