



CVP Update

Keeping Connecticut Kids Healthy



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National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages to help protect communities from serious diseases. Together, we can help raise awareness about the importance of vaccination.

As healthcare providers, you play an important role in educating patients to stay up to date on their vaccinations. This NIAM, DPH encourages all CVP providers to make your practice a supportive space that is responsive to vaccine questions and concerns from patients and parents.



Check out the [local NIAM events](#) planned throughout the state to help raise awareness about the importance of vaccines in communities across the state!

CVP Ordering – Prepare for the Upcoming RSV Season

CDC announced we will continue to be on allocation of nirsevimab for the duration of the 2025–2026 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season. More information will be sent out soon regarding dosing and ordering for this RSV season. Please see the reminders below:

- RSV doses are provided through the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) and thus are part of the restitution policy. Doses must be administered or transferred prior to expiration. If your clinic needs any assistance with transferring doses, please submit a [helpdesk ticket](#) (select: Immunizations CT WiZ–CT WiZ Training and Inventory Support–CT WiZ Inventory Management).
- Prior to ordering more doses, please rotate your current stock to ensure doses expiring soon are being administered to patients to avoid any wastage.

A new RSV product should hopefully be available later this season. Merck’s Clerovimab is a new one dose monoclonal antibody approved by the FDA for infants whose mothers are not protected by maternal RSV vaccination. More information regarding the availability of this new product will be coming soon.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Updates

ACIP June 2025 Meeting Highlights

The ACIP met on June 25–26 to discuss COVID, RSV, and flu vaccines. ACIP reaffirmed routine annual influenza vaccination for everyone aged six months and older, except those with contraindications, and recommended that only single-dose, thimerosal-free influenza vaccines be used.

The recommendations for influenza vaccines and thimerosal-free formulations were formally adopted on July 23, 2025, and CDC is working on an implementation plan to address this new federal health policy.

In summary, the ACIP members voted to recommend:

- *RSV Monoclonal Antibody for Infants (Clesrovimab):*
 - Approval of one dose of clesrovimab, a new monoclonal antibody approved by FDA for infants whose mothers are not protected by maternal respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination.
 - DPH will send out a communication when this new product is available to order through the CVP.
- *Influenza Vaccine:*
 - Annual reaffirmation of the recommendation for routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged over six months who do not have contraindications.
- *Influenza Vaccine and Thimerosal:*
 - Seasonal influenza vaccines for children 18 years and younger, pregnant women, and all adults, only in single-dose formulations free of thimerosal as a preservative.



Thimerosal is a preservative found in multi-dose vials. **There is no evidence of harm caused by the low doses of thimerosal in vaccines**, except for minor reactions like redness and swelling at the injection site (see [FDA](#) and [CDC](#)). Fewer than 6% of all doses administered across the US last season contained thimerosal. Additionally, the CVP currently only supplies influenza vaccine in single dose presentations, which do not contain this preservative.

To review ACIP meeting materials, visit: [CDC ACIP Meeting Resources](#) and the CDC/ACIP [Joint Statement](#).

To view CT DPH’s full summary of the ACIP meetings, visit our [website](#).

ACIP is set to meet again later this summer, but dates and agenda have not yet been confirmed. CT DPH will send out a communication with information when it is available.

Immunize.org launches LetsGetRealAboutVaccines.org

Let’s Get Real, launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2024, aimed to boost vaccine confidence. The campaign was canceled in early 2025 and Immunize.org acquired the content to continue providing this clear and accurate information.

Trust in experts has declined. [LetsGetRealAboutVaccines.org](#) (Let’s Get Real) highlights that most parents want their children protected from vaccine-preventable diseases and uses stories to convey important facts. It uses plain language to debunk misinformation. Let’s Get Real explains the scientific complexities of immunization through understandable language and graphics.

[LetsGetRealAboutVaccines.org](#) was researched and reviewed by medical, public health, and communications experts at CDC, FDA, and other HHS agencies to ensure the content is accurate, timely, and easy to understand. The development team worked with parents to find the right tone and focus on key issues.

The website is available in English and [Spanish](#) with in-depth content on:

- Vaccine-preventable diseases and the vaccines that prevent them
- Vaccine science and safety
- Separating facts from fiction



Data Quality Corner



CT WiZ DQA Reports via Task Module Communication

In preparation of the upcoming new process this Fall, please review the [Task Module](#) and [DQA Report](#) posted on our [CT WiZ Training](#) website.

- Currently, DPH emails designated staff your monthly CT WiZ DQA Reports as attachments for your review/action.
- The new process this Fall will be inside CT WiZ. DPH will notify designated staff via the Task Module in CT WiZ and staff will access your monthly DQA Reports in CT WiZ.

Updating Data Code Sets in Your EHRs

Please ensure accurate vaccination records are in your electronic health record (EHR) and CT WiZ:

- Subscribe to receive email updates from the [IIS Data Code Sets | CDC](#) for the [2025/2026 Seasonal Influenza Codes](#) to ensure you update your EHR with the new codes.
- Visit the DPH website for the current list of [Vaccines Supplied by Connecticut Vaccine Program \(CVP\)](#).
- Use caution when selecting the correct influenza vaccine descriptions for administered and historical vaccinations in your EHR. The resources above will help you with accurate reporting.

FluMist® Home

“FluMist Home” is the nasal spray influenza vaccine for home delivery and self-administration and is anticipated to be available this 2025–2026 influenza season.



- **Children 2 through 18 years of age are not eligible for self-administration FluMist Home this season.** But they continue to be eligible through the CVP for FluMist administered by a CVP provider.
- **Eligibility in Connecticut will only be for adults 19 through 49 years of age who have private insurance.** Adults who wish to order FluMist Home may complete the [form online](#) with their eligibility, insurance information, and delivery date. The APSN pharmacist reviews the form. If eligible, the FluMist Home will be shipped to the patient’s home with a text and/or email instruction for self-administration. The patient responds by text/email confirming that it was self-administered. The APSN pharmacist electronically reports that the dose was ‘self-administered’ into their EHR which is electronically reported to CT WiZ.

Contractor Spotlight

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Contractors

The state of Connecticut [Immunization Action Plan](#) (IAP) helps raise vaccination rates for children in our state. There are currently 8 IAP contracts throughout the state. Each IAP site has at least one program coordinator and some have outreach workers, depending on the area they cover.

IAPs work closely with local health departments, public and private immunization providers, hospitals, schools, and other health organizations that serve young children to provide crucial education and improve vaccine confidence for parents and the public. They also support DPH’s efforts to ensure CVP program compliance and proper storage and handling of vaccines at provider offices.

At the June quarterly State IAP meeting, DPH recognized the IAP staff for their hard work and achievements throughout their contract term. IAPs received individualized recognition awards, highlighting the strengths of each of the IAP contract sites.

Due to funding reductions, changes were made to the IAP contracts effective July 1, 2025. To view the current IAP contractors, please see the [IAP contact list](#) on our webpage.



Provider Spotlight

Megan Hughes



When you go to the Unionville Pediatrics website and find the biography for their Head Nurse and Office Manager, Megan Hughes, you will find the following description, which is a truly fitting summary: “The queen of the easy vaccine and all-around legend for her bright disposition.” A nurse and passionate advocate for public health, Megan is leading the charge at her practice to improve vaccine coverage, streamline immunization workflows, and most importantly, make healthcare a welcoming and trustworthy place for families. Megan has become a key figure in the practice’s quality improvement efforts, especially around immunizations and it all starts with a few powerful tools: CT WiZ and meaningful conversations.

Unionville Pediatrics has been welcoming a wave of new families transferring into the practice and with that comes a lot of records to review, immunizations to verify, and schedules to catch up on. Megan and her team jump into action by reviewing patient histories, sometimes relying on CT WiZ to track down past vaccinations when records are not readily available. “Our biggest focus right now is making sure every child – whether they’re new or long-time patients – is on the right schedule,” Megan explains. “If someone isn’t up to date, we meet families where they’re at, explain what’s needed, and work together to get them caught up.” That personal, respectful approach is what Megan believes builds trust, especially when conversations about vaccines can sometimes feel overwhelming for families.

Megan’s focus on quality improvement truly took off after participating in the Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) program. During a visit, she and her IQIP consultant reviewed CT WiZ’s Coverage Assessment Snapshot reports and everything clicked. The reports provided a clear snapshot of which children were behind on vaccines and which data points were not being properly captured. “The EHR and CT WiZ integration has been a game changer,” Megan says. “It helps ensure our data is accurate, and more importantly, that our patients aren’t falling through the cracks.” Now, Megan regularly uses these tools to not only maintain up-to-date records but to drive proactive outreach. “Seeing your rates improve over time as you improve data quality and get more kids caught up is exciting,” she adds. “We try to have the highest vaccination rates we can because we know it’s going to be beneficial for the community, especially for children who are immunocompromised.”

One of Megan’s successes is her work to improve HPV vaccination rates. This vaccine has faced significant parental hesitancy, but Megan and her team decided to take a proactive approach to offset some of the common concerns. Instead of waiting until the often jam-packed 11-year-old well-child visit, they now start the conversation as early as age 9. “It gives us time to talk more about the vaccine, answer questions, and reduce some of the anxiety that can come at the 11-year-old visit,” Megan explains. With a combination of earlier conversations, accessible educational materials, and large-scale campaigns to promote public HPV vaccine awareness and perception, such as TV commercials, Megan has seen families become more open and receptive to the vaccine. “It’s not a rushed decision anymore,” she says. “It’s something we’ve had time to talk through together and thoroughly educate on.”

For others looking to do similar work in their office, Megan’s advice is simple: **start early and use your available tools.** “When it comes to the HPV conversation, starting earlier really makes a difference. There’s less stigma and less pressure, which provides more opportunities for meaningful discussion,” she says. “And with CT WiZ, once you understand the reports and start using them regularly, it becomes one of your most valuable tools.” Megan emphasizes that none of this work happens in a vacuum. It takes a committed team, strong communication, and a shared belief that every child deserves protection, and every family deserves to feel safe and supported in a medical setting. “We are really happy to be doing the work that we do and to make sure that the general public has space in the healthcare system. We are here to help them and not scare them away.” That’s the heartbeat behind everything Megan Hughes does at Unionville Pediatrics, and it shows.



Webinar Recording and Opportunities

Building Vaccine Confidence Webinar Recording

In case you missed the training opportunity from our last newsletter, you can view slides and a recording of Correlation and Causation: Understanding and Debunking Claims Linking Vaccines and Autism on the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)'s website. This is a valuable resource for building trust and promoting vaccine confidence.

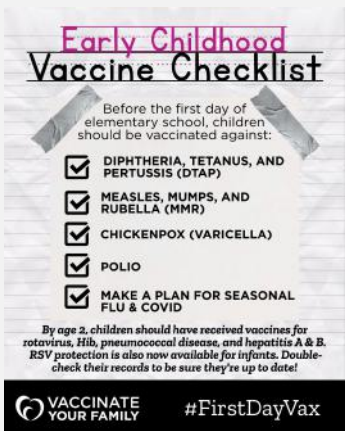
Upcoming Webinar: Communication Strategies

Join the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) and the Coalition for Trust in Health & Science for their webinar Communication Strategies to Build Trust and Address Misinformation which will be held on August 6, 2025, at 2:00 PM ET.

NFID Medical Director Robert H. Hopkins, Jr., MD will moderate a panel to discuss the importance of effective communication strategies in building trust and addressing misinformation about vaccine-preventable diseases. Speakers will share practical strategies to build trust with patients and caregivers and promote evidence-based care.

You can register for the event [here](#).

Back to School: Timing Matters!



As students get ready to head back to school, make sure they're fully protected with properly timed vaccines.

Live virus vaccines, such as MMR, MMRV, and varicella, must be administered at least 28 days apart. Unlike other vaccines, there is no 4-day grace period for live virus vaccines. If doses are given too close together, the second dose is considered invalid and must be repeated at an appropriate time.

Double check spacing to avoid unnecessary repeat doses and ensure students are up to date before the school year begins!

Need Help?

Please visit our [CT WiZ Training](#) and [CT WiZ Onboarding](#) websites for trainings and resources.

If you still require assistance, please submit a helpdesk ticket and ensure you select the appropriate category – topic – and sub-topic if applicable.



Here are some common categories:

- "CT WiZ Inventory Management"
 - For questions including reconciliations, transfers, wastage, returns, etc.
- "CT WiZ Login (Username or Password Issues)"
 - Existing CT WiZ user – Username or Password Issues
 - Update CT WiZ user account
- "Clinic Administration"
 - Report records for DPH review/correction
 - Update Clinic Information

Helpdesk uses a centralized, auto-triage so tickets receive a timely response.

Additional Help:

- If your question is not related to Helpdesk categories, please email DPH.Immunizations@ct.gov.
- If you must share confidential patient information, please fax 860-707-1925.
- If you have an urgent matter, please call the main immunization program at 860-509-7929.

