



CVP Update

Keeping Connecticut Kids Healthy



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'Let's Get Real' Campaign

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently launched the Let's Get Real campaign to highlight facts about childhood vaccines and share stories from confident parents who vaccinate their kids. The campaign provides verifiable facts and shares stories from doctors and peers on why most of us rely on vaccines to protect our children.

Let's Get Real also offers tools for healthcare professionals who see pediatric patients, including the **Act, Recommend, Motivate (ARM) Approach**.

Act: If a parent is in your office, then assume they plan to vaccinate their child.

Recommend: If a parent is unsure, then make a strong recommendation.

Motivate: If a parent is hesitant, then empower them to be confident in their decision to vaccinate.

This provider-tested approach guides more effective vaccine conversations with parents. The three steps of the ARM approach build on each other to help parents feel more empowered and confident about their decisions for their child's health.

View healthcare provider resources here: [Make a real impact | Let's Get Real](#)



Highlights from the 2023–2024 School Immunization Survey

While data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highlight a continued decrease in kindergarten vaccination across the nation, Connecticut has been an exception to the trend. The percentage of Connecticut kindergarten students receiving the required MMR vaccine in the 2023–2024 school year was 97.7%, reflecting an increase of 0.4% from the previous year. This is in contrast to the national trend, where MMR coverage declined from 93.1% to 92.7%.* Among public school kindergarten students in Connecticut, the MMR coverage rate was 98.0%, while private schools reported a coverage rate of 93.6%.

Connecticut is one of only 11 states or jurisdictions in the United States to achieve MMR vaccine coverage above the 95% threshold necessary for measles herd immunity this school year.**

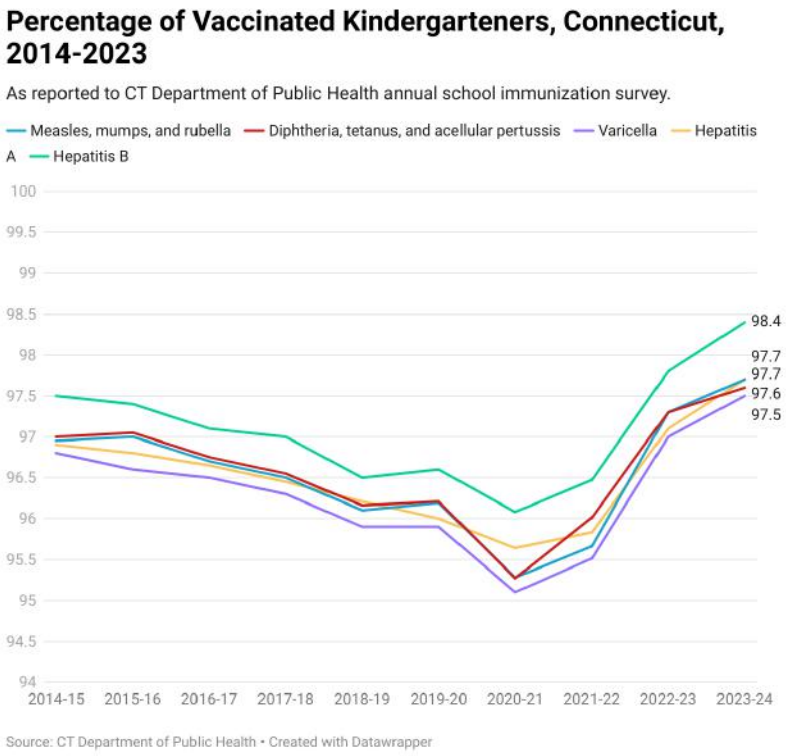
Public Act (PA) 21-6 amended current statutes relating to vaccine exemptions in Connecticut, repealing religious exemptions for Connecticut students. Children who were enrolled in kindergarten and who had a valid religious exemption on file before the time of passage of PA 21-6 on April 28, 2021, were allowed to keep their exemptions for their remaining school years (through grade 12).

In addition to immunization rates increasing for each vaccine, the percentage of kindergarten students with a religious exemption decreased from 0.5% to 0.1% and the percentage of Pre-K students with a religious exemption saw a continued decrease from 0.2% to 0.1%. The national average during 2023–24 for non-medical exemptions was 3.1%, a .3% increase from the previous year.*

In Connecticut the percentage of kindergarten students with a medical exemption was 0.4%, within the range of fluctuation of 0.1% seen during the past decade.

View additional data and figures on [our website](#)!

*MMWR: Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten – United States, 2023–24 School Year
**Global Measles Vaccination – Recommendations



Updated CT WiZ Public Portal Flyer

View, post and print our updated flyer to educate your patients about how they can **securely** access their immunization records online through the CT WiZ Public Portal!

The updated flyers are on our website at the links below:

- English
- Spanish

How to Access Your Immunization Record Through CT WiZ

It's Your Best Shot!
CT WiZ
Connecticut Immunization Information System

CT WiZ Public Portal is a free service by the Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Program. This is an official record of **immunizations received in Connecticut** that can be saved or printed. This record can be used as proof of immunizations for daycare, school, camp, work, travel, etc.

Quickly access your record electronically using the secure online CT WiZ Public Portal by visiting:
CT.gov/vaccinerecord

Visit the CT WiZ Public Portal link above or scan the QR Code:

- 1 Select 'Me' or 'Dependent' for the record you are requesting.
- 2 Enter your or your minor (age 0 through 17 years) child's name, date of birth, and gender.
- 3 Phone number or email address used when vaccinated.

Note. When using the CT WiZ Public Portal to access your (or your minor child's) immunization record, information entered **must be an exact match** with the CT Immunization Information System.

Your Privacy, Our Priority

Security and protection of patient records is very important. The CT WiZ Public Portal uses 'two-factor authentication'. When you enter your information and a match is found in CT WiZ, **you will be texted or emailed a code to enter and confirm your identity before you can access the record.**

Need Help?

Complete the secure online form [ctwizsubmissions.dph.ct.gov](#). If you need assistance by phone, call our Connecticut Immunization Program at 860-508-7828, open Monday–Friday 8:30am–4:30pm.

CONNECTICUT
Public Health

Data Quality Corner



CT WiZ Data Entry Tips

When data entering in CT WiZ, some codes have been updated to make it easier for you.

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 324 | Polio-Fractional IPV flPV |
| 10 | Polio-IPV |
| 2 | Polio-OPV before 4/1/2016 |
| 178 | Polio-OPV Bivalent |
| 179 | Polio-OPV Monovalent unsp |
| 182 | Polio-OPV UF >= 4/1/16 |
| 89 | Polio-UF before 4/1/2016 |

Polio vaccine data entry codes in CT WiZ

Polio vaccine codes have been updated to start with "Polio" and have descriptions after their name, as seen to the left.

Notes:

- **First column** means CVX code
- **UF** means "unspecified"
- **>=** means the vaccine was administered on or after April 1, 2016
- **Before** means the vaccine was administered before April 1, 2016
- Please review the website: [Polio Vaccine Recommendations | Polio | CDC](#) for guidance on the polio vaccination schedule.

How to Enter Titers in CT WiZ

Titer codes have been updated so they have the word "Titer" to make it easier to search when you need to enter them, as seen below:

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10009 | Laboratory Evidence of Immunity for Measles Titer |
| 10010 | Laboratory Evidence of Immunity for Mumps Titer |
| 10011 | Laboratory Evidence of Immunity for Rubella Titer |
| 10007 | Laboratory Evidence of Immunity or confirmation of Hepatitis A Disease Titer |
| 10008 | Laboratory Evidence of Immunity or confirmation of Hepatitis B Disease Titer |
| 10012 | Laboratory Evidence of Immunity or confirmation of Varicella Disease Titer |

Steps:

- Search for your patient, open the record,
- On the left side of the screen, select "Precautions/Contraindications" on the top,
- Click the blue button **"Add Precautions/Contraindications"** and in the drop-down start typing the word **Titer** and the **list of "Laboratory Evidence of...Titer"** will pop up.
- Note: Only **measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella** are accepted as titers.
- Contraindications will appear on the bottom of the "Official Immunization Record".
- The Recommender will reflect the vaccine recommendations accordingly.
- For additional training, visit the [CT WiZ Training](#) website under Patient Management.

MINNIE MOUSE

ID: 896040 | DOB: 04/10/2019 | AGE: 5Y 9M 12D | GENDER: F

Precautions / Contraindications ARE specified

New Precautions / Contraindications

Learn More

Cancel Create

Effective Date

01/22/2025

Expiration Date

MM/DD/YYYY

Provider *

HEALTH PLUS

Type name of provider

Author *

RIVERA, LORETTA (LORETTA RIVERA)

Type name of user

Precautions / Contraindications *

TITER

Laboratory Evidence of Immunity for Measles Titer

Laboratory Evidence of Immunity for Mumps Titer

Laboratory Evidence of Immunity for Rubella Titer

Laboratory Evidence of Immunity or confirmation of Hepatitis A Disease Titer

Cancel

Create

Reminder: Vaccine Expiration Dates

Always rotate vaccine stock to ensure doses expiring soon are being administered before longer dated vaccines.

- In CT WiZ, you will see a 🕒 when doses are expiring within 4 months.
- If you are unsure if your clinic will be able to use doses before they expire, please submit a [help desk ticket](#) (select Immunizations (CT WiZ), category: Clinic Administration, topic: Report Vaccine Temperature Excursion, sub-topic: Need Assistance). DPH will supply you with a list of potential clinics that may be able to use the doses.
- For more information, visit our Immunization Program website regarding [vaccine transferring](#) and the [restitution policy](#) for state supplied vaccines.

Provider Spotlight

Newtown Center Pediatrics

In an innovative approach that combines healthcare with community engagement, Newtown Center Pediatrics has been running a unique flu clinic for the past decade: partnering with local ice cream trucks to turn flu shots into a cherished tradition. Spearheaded by Dr. Laura Nowacki, the initiative began when she envisioned a way to make flu vaccinations less daunting and more delightful for children and collaborate with a small business.

"We usually hold our flu clinics indoors, but when the weather cooperates, we move outside so the kids can enjoy seeing the ice cream truck" says Elizabeth Bonis, a nurse who has been with the practice for over 20 years. "It's become something they look forward to every year – a fun memory that makes the experience positive." The process is simple but impactful. Parents register their children for one of the four to five annual clinics, where children receive their flu shot and then celebrate with a sweet treat from the ice cream truck. The combination of care and rewards has made the clinics an eagerly anticipated event. In recent years, Newtown Center Pediatrics has expanded this concept by partnering with another local ice cream truck business, enabling even more clinics and reaching a wider audience.

This creative strategy addresses a common challenge in pediatrics: reducing anxiety around vaccinations. By transforming the experience into an event that is both engaging and enjoyable, the clinic not only eases the fears of young patients but also reinforces the importance of immunization within the community. "It's a great opportunity to distract the kids and offer them something for being brave," says Elizabeth, "It makes the whole process more pleasant for everyone." The impact of this initiative is evident. Parents now expect these clinics each flu season, actively seeking out announcements on social media and the practice's website. Over time, the partnership has helped cultivate a culture of proactive vaccination, with local families embracing the clinics and an essential part of their healthcare routine.

For practices considering a similar approach, Elizabeth recommends tapping into local businesses or community partners. "Find people in your area who are willing to collaborate. It's a simple idea that goes a long way in making kids excited about getting their flu shots!"

By combining essential healthcare with a touch of fun, Newtown Center Pediatrics has turned an ordinary flu clinic into an extraordinary community tradition. Their decade-long success story highlights the power of creative thinking and community collaboration in promoting public health.

For more information, visit www.newtowncenterpediatrics.com.



Newtown Center Pediatrics Staff at one of their flu clinics!

Register for the 'How Vaccines Work' Webinar on 2/28!



Join the Connecticut Immunization Coalition and American Lung Association on February 28, 2025, from 11:00-12:00 EST for a **free** webinar titled, *How Vaccines Work: The Immunology Underlying Commonly Used Vaccines*.

The featured presenter is Samuel J. Vidal, MD, PhD from Harvard Medical School & Brigham and Women's Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases. Dr. Vidal will discuss a historical perspective, basic immune mechanisms involved in vaccination, commonly used vaccine platforms, and causes of rare but serious vaccine adverse effects.

[Register Today!](#)

This webinar is intended for public health professionals, so feel free to register and share with community partners that might be interested. If you have any questions, contact CTCoalition@lung.org.

Cybersecurity Process with CT WiZ

Security is a top priority for CT WiZ. The system’s interfaces are continuously monitored to ensure the highest levels of data security. While CT WiZ has not experienced any security threats or incidents, proactive procedures are in place to safeguard sensitive information.

Process for Reporting a Cybersecurity Threat or Incident

If facilities who are onboarded or have user access to CT WiZ experience a cybersecurity threat or incident, they should follow these steps to protect CT WiZ data:



- 1. Alert
 - Submit a Helpdesk ticket:
 - Select **Immunizations (CT WiZ)**
 - Category: **Cyberthreat/Incident**
 - Topics: **Reporting a Threat/Incident or Reporting Resolution of Threat/Incident**
 - Alternatively, call (860) 509-7929. Provide as much information as possible, including the start date, affected system(s), your contact details, and the resolution date.



- 2. Stop
 - The CT WiZ team will temporarily suspend your access to CT WiZ (both user interface and HL7 query access) to prevent unauthorized activity.
 - To request an immunization record during this time, call (860) 509-7929. Patients may also securely access the CT WiZ Public Portal.



- 3. Resume
 - Once the threat or incident has been resolved, notify the CT WiZ team.
 - User access will be restored after a password reset, and HL7 facility codes will be reactivated for reporting/query purposes.

**Follow us on
social media!**



Employee Spotlight

Caroline Thompson, Epidemiologist

Caroline Thompson is an Epidemiologist in the Immunization Program at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Caroline received her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Saint Anselm College and her MPH from the University of Connecticut where she also was a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Fellow. Before joining DPH in March of last year, Caroline worked in a Pharmacy throughout school, where she administered countless vaccines in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. She is a part of the Vaccine Preventable Disease team where she focuses on varicella. Caroline also works on the Immunization Surveys (School Immunization Survey, Pre-K Flu Survey, and Daycare Survey) where she helps to disseminate the surveys, analyze the data, and publish results. In her spare time, Caroline enjoys running, podcasts, hiking, and camping in the White Mountains with her new fiancé, Rob!

