

From: DPHIMMUNIZATIONS, No-Reply <No-ReplyDPHIMMUNIZATIONS@ct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:11 PM
Subject: Bridge Program Updates 10.12.23



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

October 12, 2023

This communication is being sent to key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccines through the Bridge Program—please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization.

Dear Bridge Program Provider,

You are receiving this email because your provider office has indicated interest in participating in the Bridge Access Program. At this point everyone on this list should have received an email communication (to the preferred contact indicated in the interest survey), with the appropriate instructions to participate in the Bridge access program. If you have not or would like those instructions sent to you again please contact dph.immunizations@ct.gov.

Please read the below communication in its entirety for important bridge program updates about:

- Bridge Program COVID-19 Vaccine Supply
- Bridge Program Ordering
- COVID-19 Vaccine Restitution & Wastage Policy
- Vaccine Clinic Promotion
- Reporting to [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Join Connecticut Immunization Coalition Meetings
- Provider COVID-19 Informational Resources

Bridge Program COVID-19 Vaccine Supply

As mentioned in previous communications, the state-enrolled component of the [CDC's Bridge program](#) will supply approximately 24,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses that will be made available to enrolled adult vaccine providers (local health departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and other providers serving uninsured populations) to vaccinate uninsured and underinsured adults. This vaccine supply is currently on allocation and will be gradually released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to states to order over the next couple of months.

We currently have new formulations of Moderna 12+, Pfizer 12+ and now Novavax 12+ available to order.

With that in mind, we currently have a smaller Bridge allocation of Pfizer 12+ vaccine. We will be receiving more doses, but do not know when or how many doses will be allocated for Bridge.

We do have sufficient Moderna 12+ vaccine in our bridge allocation that your clinics can order to ensure you receive the vaccines as quickly as possible and are able to begin vaccinating your uninsured adult patients. If you prefer the Pfizer 12+, we will try our best to fulfill your request as quickly as possible when additional Pfizer Bridge allocation becomes available.

Bridge Program Ordering

While doses are on allocation, we are asking all Bridge providers to submit orders via this [form](#). Orders will be pulled daily to review and determine fulfillment. DPH will try to send as close to the requested amount as possible and will communicate if we aren't able to ship the requested amount. Once COVID-19 vaccine is available to order routinely in CT WiZ, another communication will be sent.

Please note, that only providers who have completed their CT Vaccines for Adult (CVFA) program enrollment will have their orders approved. A communication with ordering instructions is sent to the preferred contact once enrollment is completed.

Providers that participate in both the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) and the Bridge Access Program should pay special attention to packing slips included with your vaccine orders because both programs use the *same COVID-19 vaccines*. Clinics need to ensure they are marking the vaccine respectively to the program they were ordered through. *All CVP orders should be marked as VFC on the packing slip, whereas **Bridge orders will be labeled as 317.***

COVID-19 Vaccine Restitution & Wastage Policy

COVID-19 vaccines received through the State are subject to the [restitution policy](#). Since doses are available as single dose vials, the expectation is for all doses to be used, or transferred to another enrolled provider prior to expiration. The Pfizer 6mo–4yr 3-dose vial and Novavax 5-dose vial are the only exception to this policy if the vial is partially used. Partially used vials would not need to be replaced as once a vial has been punctured, it cannot be transferred. If the vial has not been used and still has the full number of doses, the vaccine would need to be transferred if it will not be used.

COVID-19 vaccine received through the State that has expired or is no longer viable due to a temperature excursion will need to be returned in CT WiZ, just as all other state supplied vaccines are. Just a reminder if you are not going to be able to use doses ordered, please transfer the doses at least a few months prior to expiration. If you need assistance finding a provider that may be able to use your vaccine, please submit a [help desk ticket](#); select Immunizations (CT WiZ)-->Clinic Administration-->CT WiZ Training and Inventory Support. DPH will send you a list of possible providers and their contact information.

See the DPH [restitution policy](#) (page 35) and the [COVID-19 wastage policy](#).

Vaccine Clinic Promotion

Provider locations participating in the Bridge Program must provide their clinic information with CT DPH so that clinic information can be made public on the DPH website to promote the COVID-19 vaccines to the uninsured populations in Connecticut. DPH staff will be reaching out to the preferred contact shortly to collect this information.

Providers can access the Bridge Program [Communications Toolkit](#) for guidance on how to promote uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Reporting to Vaccines.gov

Bridge providers are required to make their clinics publicly searchable on [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). A new filter has been added to the COVID-19 search functionality on vaccines.gov, allowing the public to find provider locations participating in the Bridge Access Program. Providers should follow [this guidance](#) to set their Bridge Access Program locations, set up vaccines availability, and make availability publicly visible.

Join Connecticut Immunization Coalition Meetings

Please join the [Connecticut Immunization Coalition](#) to stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccine related information. The Coalition meets monthly, typically on the first Friday of the month—the next scheduled meeting is **this Friday, 10/13/2023 at 9:30am**, you will receive a link once you sign up. Starting in October, DPH will provide Bridge program updates on this call and be available to answer provider questions, so please [sign up to become a member!](#)

Provider COVID-19 Informational Resources

Providers can access additional information on the Bridge Access Program and COVID-19 vaccines by accessing the following resources:

- [CDC's Bridge Access Program](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the Bridge Access Program](#)
- [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Current [ACIP COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information](#)
 - [Moderna Standing Orders](#)
 - [Pfizer Standing Orders](#)
 - Novavax (coming soon)
- FDA Fact Sheets for 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccines
 - [Moderna](#)
 - [Pfizer](#)
 - [Novavax](#)

REMINDERS:

Vaccine Administration Billing

Vaccine provided by the Bridge Access Program will be free of charge to recipients. **Providers may not bill eligible patients for the cost of vaccine or administration.**

Reporting Vaccine Administration

All vaccine administration, including COVID-19, *must* be reported to **CT WiZ**. Providers who have not onboarded for electronic reporting to CT WiZ will need to complete the [onboarding process](#).

Patient Eligibility Screening and Documentation

CVFA providers administering Bridge Program Vaccines will be required to screen patients and document eligibility status for each immunization encounter and administer Bridge Program vaccines only to adults who are at least 19 years of age and meet one of the following categories:

1. **Uninsured:** A person who does not have health insurance.
2. **Underinsured:** A person who has health insurance, but the insurance does not include any vaccines; a person whose insurance covers only selected vaccines; a person whose insurance does not provide first-dollar coverage for vaccines.

A patient can self-attest to their insurance status at the time of screening; no further verification is needed.

For more information on screening and reporting eligibility, visit: [Patient Eligibility Screening Cheat Sheet](#).

As more information becomes available regarding the Bridge Program, CT DPH will send out additional communications. As always, thank you for your ongoing support and efforts as we work together to continue to fight COVID-19.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#), or call (860) 509-7929 with any questions.

If you would like to subscribe to receive these communications, please complete [this form](#). If you would like to unsubscribe from receiving these communications, please complete [this form](#).