



CVP Update



Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines

With influenza season approaching, CDC recognizes there may be compelling logistical advantages to offering patients COVID-19 and influenza vaccines on the same day and you may encourage patients to receive these on the same day. There are no safety concerns for coadministration.



You may administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines without regard to timing (both live, attenuated and non-live influenza vaccines). This includes administration of [COVID-19 and influenza vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration at any time interval](#).

When deciding whether to coadminister other vaccine(s) with COVID-19 vaccine consider:

- Whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines;
- The patient’s risk of vaccine-preventable disease;
- The reactogenicity profile of the vaccines;
- The likelihood of avoiding a missed opportunity to vaccinate.

Best practices for multiple injections include:

- Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
- Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction (i.e., adjuvanted influenza vaccines) in different limbs, if possible.

View a list of flu vaccination clinics at local health departments across the state [here](#).

CT Annual Influenza Update Webinar Recap

The CT Annual Influenza Update, hosted by the American Lung Association and the CT Immunization Coalition/Dept of Public Health, was held on September 8, 2021. Federal presenters representing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services – Region 1 New England presented on topics ranging from flu surveillance and messaging to health equity. A CT psychologist presented tips for coping with mental health during a pandemic and lastly, there was a round robin discussion with medical affairs experts about vaccine products. To request a copy of the recording, please contact Michelle Caul of the American Lung Association at Michelle.caul@lung.org

It’s CVP Re-Enrollment Time!

In order to participate in the CVP, each provider is mandated to complete and submit a Provider Profile/Provider Agreement to the CVP on an annual basis. Last year, for calendar year 2021, this requirement was temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 rollout. This year, for calendar year 2022, we are resuming this requirement. Look for the 2022 CVP Re-enrollment **memo coming on 10/12/21**. Your completed CVP re-enrollment in CT WiZ is **due by 12/15/21**. Instructions will also be posted on the [CVP website](#).

Reminder: To access CT WiZ, if you have an existing CT WiZ username, you can [reset your own password](#).

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860-509-7929

or click [here](#)

For a current list of IAP contacts, websites, and social media pages visit [Immunization Action Plan \(IAP\)](#)

IQIP Visits are Resuming

WHAT IS IQIP?

[IQIP](#) is CDC's Vaccines For Children provider-level Immunization Quality Improvement Program.

GOAL OF IQIP

IQIP promotes and supports implementation of provider-level strategies designed to help increase on-time vaccination of children and adolescents. During this visit, CT DPH will also provide COVID-19 and catch-up vaccination resources (e.g. reminder-recall in CT WiZ). CVP providers will be contacted by CT DPH staff to schedule either a virtual or in-person visit.

BENEFITS OF IQIP FOR PROVIDERS

- Ensure that more child and adolescent patients get the vaccines they need when they need them
- Save time and money by reducing the need for catch-up appointments and follow-up for patients who are not vaccinated on time
- Assist in meeting childhood and adolescent HEDIS measures

If you would like to request an IQIP visit for your office(s), please email dph.immunizations@ct.gov Attn: Deepa Mavani.

Meet the DPH Immunization Program Team!

This update, we introduce you to Kimberly Gierla!



Kimberly Gierla (soon to be Kimberly White) is a Health Program Associate at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. She grew up in Southington, CT and received a bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University. She has been with the Immunization program since 2013 and currently is working with the CVP program and on COVID-19 enrollment.

She lives with her fiancé Tyler and two cats Kitty and Kala. In her spare time, Kimberly loves to craft, cook, and spend time with her family. She will be getting married in October (her favorite time of year) and will be going to Hawaii on her honeymoon in January.

NEW CDC SmartFind COVID-19 Vaccine ChatBot

CDC has launched a new resource—the [SmartFind COVID-19 Vaccine ChatBot](#)—to help quickly connect people, including healthcare providers, to clear, consistent, and credible information about COVID-19 vaccines.

The automated ChatBot features include:

- Answers to common questions and answers about COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized and recommended, or undergoing large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in the United States
- 24-7 access to COVID-19 vaccine information on web-based devices, including mobile phones and tablets
- Links to additional resources, such as where to find a COVID-19 vaccination location

New VIS Translations Available

Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has posted new and updated translations of [Vaccine Information Statements](#) (VIS) released by CDC on August 6, 2021, in Chinese, Dari, Pashto, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese. All translations are available in PDF and print-ready format. IAC will post VIS in additional languages in coming weeks!

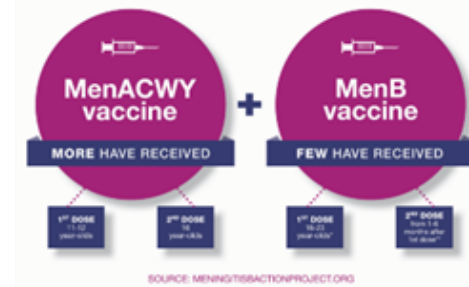
CT WiZ for School Nurses

Kids are back in school! School Nurses/School Nurse Supervisors are [allowed access](#) to the Education Module in CT WiZ to look up and verify students' immunization histories and generate reports.

Training materials are available on the [CT WiZ School Nurse webpage](#).

Meningitis B Action Project launches back-to-school resources to encourage vaccination; new social media series titled "Be a Team Player"

Resources include:



- [Social media graphics](#) to encourage adolescent vaccination, including the new "Be a Team Player" and "It Takes Two" series,
- [Back-to-school social media tour](#) in collaboration with Tamera Coyne-Beasley, MD, MPH, chair of adolescent medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- [Podcast and learning module](#) in partnership with the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (offering 1 contact hour of CE; 0.5 of which may be applied towards pharmacology).

Ensure Best Practice by Checking CT WiZ Before Vaccinating

Prior to administering any vaccine, including the COVID-19 vaccine, it is important that a recipient's prior vaccine history be referenced in the Immunization Information System (CT WiZ), Best clinical practice is to verify that the recommended interval has elapsed since a previous dose of vaccine and that the preferred brand of vaccine be administered.

- If your clinic established bi-directional data exchange, you can query CT WiZ for the patient immunization record [electronically from your EHR](#).
- Every CVP and CoVP enrolled clinic can look up the [patient immunization record](#) in the CT WiZ user interface. Those who signed the Provider Agreement and the primary and back-up vaccine coordinator already have CT WiZ access.
- If your staff need access to CT WiZ, [request a username](#) and select the 'Clinic Access' role.
- If you need support, please submit a [Helpdesk ticket](#).

CT WiZ Public Portal Now Available

Patients and parents/legal guardians can now access official immunization records for themselves and their children (under 18) using the online secure CT WiZ Public Portal. For step-by-step instructions, view [our website](#) including videos to walk you through using the portal.

Note: the portal requires an **email or mobile phone** for the 'two-factor authentication' to verify the identity of the requestor. If there is an exact match in CT WiZ of the name, date of birth, and cell phone or email used at patient registration for the vaccine, a code sent to the requestor's email or mobile phone can be entered to access the vaccination record in CT WiZ. Capturing this contact information and reporting it to CT WiZ will ensure your patients will have access to this public portal at their convenience.

If they tried but were unable to access their record through CT WiZ or want to request their record by fax or mail, they can [submit proof of identification](#).

Please share this information with your patients!

Reminders!

- Post the [Notice to Patients About Reporting to CT WiZ](#) at your CVP and CoVP clinic to notify patients of their enrollment into CT WiZ at the time an immunization is administered.
- Don't forget to start preparing for National Influenza Vaccination Week ([NIVW](#)) in December!
- [FREE Patient Education Materials](#) available to order from DPH!
- CVP Site Visits will be starting soon. You will be contacted by someone from DPH to schedule your visit.
- CVP Blue Folder Updates are posted [online](#). Updates are currently being made and will be posted soon!