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Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

July 14, 2023

This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine— please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all our communications are archived on our web site.

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Providers,

Below are some important operational updates about COVID-19 vaccine distribution as we approach the anticipated end of the U.S. Government's (USG) COVID-19 Vaccine Program and commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines. **The USG will be ending their distribution of federally supplied COVID-19 vaccines on August 1, 2023. This means we can no longer fill your orders for COVID-19 vaccines after August 1st.**

End of USG COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

The USG has chosen to end COVID-19 vaccine distribution prior to commercialization because many individuals may choose to wait to be vaccinated until the updated version is released, as it is expected to provide more robust protection against currently circulating variants. However, there may be certain individuals who need or desire a COVID-19 vaccine prior to the anticipated release of the updated vaccine in the fall.

While demand for the current vaccine is low overall at this point, and expected to decrease further in late summer, it is important that access to the current vaccines remain available across all age groups.

Providers should place an order for COVID-19 vaccine through the [DPH submissions portal](#), prior to August 1, 2023. Please order enough vaccine to maintain necessary inventory to get through the summer and early fall until the updated vaccine is available on the commercial market.

Commercialization Update

Below are some key assumptions and anticipated timeline that providers can use to start planning:

- Once COVID-19 vaccines are available on the commercial market they will no longer be supplied by the USG at no cost through the COVID-19 vaccine program. However, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to order like other routine vaccines:
 - 1) for children (under 19) vaccines will be available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program;
 - 2) for adults (19+) vaccines will be available for purchase on the commercial market and for uninsured adults through the [USG's Bridge Program](#).
- Vaccine administration reimbursement rates are expected to change once the vaccine is commercialized.
- No-cost ancillary supply kits will likely cease when the USG no longer supplies the vaccine.

The plan for commercialization involves multiple agencies like Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and USG. CT DPH will continue to share more information as it becomes available.

The following summary table provides an estimated sequence of events based on the FDA's VRBPAC meeting that took place on June 15, 2023:

Projected Timeline (All subject to change)	Action/Event
6/15/23	FDA's VRBPAC meeting held, committee recommended updated fall vaccine composition
6/16/23	FDA statement on XBB.1.5 as recommended fall vaccine composition
08/01/23	Vaccines ordered through the USG ends.
TBD (expected in mid to late September)	FDA decisions and amendments to Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) / Biologics License Applications (BLAs) for new updated COVID-19 vaccines
TBD (concurrent with FDA decision)	USG discontinues distribution and authorization of current COVID-19 vaccine composition
TBD (pending FDA decision)	Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) discussion on COVID-19 epidemiology and vaccine effectiveness and CDC recommendation
TBD (pending FDA decision, CDC recommendation, and manufacturer readiness)	Fall vaccine availability for administration begins across all age groups with traditional pathways for procurement, distribution, and payment

For additional information on commercialization of COVID-19 medical countermeasure, see the USG's frequently asked questions [here](#).

Additional Reminders

There is no financial penalty or need to replace COVID-19 vaccine should they expire before use. If COVID-19 vaccine expires or is wasted, you must promptly report any doses expired and/or wasted vaccine to the CT WiZ [Helpdesk](#).

We encourage providers to:

- Monitor expiration dates weekly, rotate stock as needed, and follow a “first in, first out” strategy to manage inventory.
- If nearing expiration, check posted manufacturer information for the most up to date expiration/extension information for vaccine lots.
 - **Pfizer:** <https://lotexpiry.cvdvaccine.com>
 - **Moderna:** <https://modernacovid19global.com/vial-lookup>
 - **Novavax:** <https://us.novavaxcovidvaccine.com/hcp>
 - **Johnson and Johnson/Janssen:** <https://vaxcheck.inj/>
- Based on the latest expiration information, REMOVE expired vaccine from the storage unit IMMEDIATELY. Do not give staff opportunity to administer expired vaccine.

If expired vaccine is inadvertently administered, it is considered a vaccine administration error and requires remediation including a VAERS report, contacting the recipient to inform them of the error, and may or may not require revaccination based on the manufacturers’ guidance. Guidance on vaccine administration errors can be found in Appendix A of the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#).

Dispose of the vaccine vial (with any remaining vaccine) and packaging as medical waste. Do NOT return vaccine in the thermal shipping container.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and effort with the COVID-19 vaccines.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

For the COVID-19 webpage, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

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