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Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:02 AM
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Program Reminders



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

July 20, 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 additional updates and a message from CDC about the current COVID-19 vaccine program as we approach the anticipated end of the U.S. Government's (USG) COVID-19 vaccine distribution and commercialization.

Important Vaccine Ordering Reminder

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.

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.

[Click here to read last Friday's full CoVP communication.](#)

Message from CDC

Below is a message from Dr. Georgina Peacock to all CoVP providers:

Thank you for your participation in the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program to ensure all people in the United States who wish to be vaccinated can receive vaccine without barriers, to the greatest extent possible with vaccine provided by the federal government. We truly appreciate your continued efforts in helping vaccine recipients understand the importance of vaccination and that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

Over the last two years, the Biden-Harris Administration and state, territorial, local, and jurisdictional partners have effectively implemented the largest adult vaccination program in U.S. history, with over 270 million people receiving at least one shot of a COVID-19 vaccine. As a result of these and other efforts, COVID-19 is no longer the disruptive force it once was. Since January 2021, COVID-19 deaths have declined by 95% and hospitalizations are down nearly 91%.

Currently, CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program is in a unique, transitional position. Although we anticipate that commercialization, or the transition of vaccines to more traditional pathways for procurement, distribution, and payment, will occur in the fall ([FAQ - Commercialization of COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures](#)), at this time the CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Program remains unchanged. Thus far in 2023:

- In April, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatment – a public-private partnership as a temporary measure to prevent the loss of under- and uninsured adults' access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments at no-cost after commercialization.
- On May 9, HHS released the [Fact Sheet: End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) announcing the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, which stated:
 - *“at the end of the COVID-19 PHE on May 11, Americans will continue to be able to access COVID-19 vaccines at no cost, just as they have during the COVID-19 PHE, due to the requirements of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement. people will also continue to be able to access COVID-19 treatments just as they have during the COVID-19 PHE.”*

The federal PHE for COVID-19 expired on May 11, 2023; however, [CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement](#) requires that all organizations and providers participating in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program:

- **must** administer COVID-19 Vaccine at no out-of-pocket cost to the recipient
- may **not** deny anyone vaccination based on the vaccine recipient's coverage status or network status
- may **not** charge an office visit or other fee if COVID-19 vaccination is the sole medical service provided
- may **not** require additional medical services to receive COVID-19 vaccination
- **may** seek appropriate reimbursement from a program or plan that covers COVID-19 Vaccine administration fees for the vaccine recipient, such as:
 - vaccine recipient's private insurance company
 - [Medicare or Medicaid](#) reimbursement
- may **not** seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from the vaccine recipient

For any specific questions on these requirements, you can email your immunization program (dph.immunizations@ct.gov). Thank you again for your participation in CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program and support as we work together to continue to fight COVID-19. I hope this information is helpful.

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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