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Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Updates *please note correction*, October 5, 2023



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates *please note correction*

October 5, 2023

This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations enrolled in the CT Vaccine (Pediatric) Program (CVP) and Connecticut Vaccines for Adult (CVFA) Program – 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 CVP and CVFA Providers,

The purpose of this communication is to address questions the Department of Public Health (DPH) has been receiving regarding the COVID-19 vaccine that is now available through the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) and the CVFA Bridge Program.

What is the restitution policy for COVID-19 vaccines received through either the CVP or CVFA Bridge Program?

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 6 months–4 years is a 3-dose vial and is an 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 3 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.

How is the vaccine shipped?

All Pfizer vaccine is shipped directly from the manufacturer and is shipped frozen. All Moderna vaccine is shipped **frozen** by McKesson **refrigerated**. Just a reminder on storage of the vaccines:

- [Moderna](#) can be stored frozen between -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) until expiration or in a refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days;
- [Pfizer](#) can be stored at ultra-cold temperatures between -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F) until expiration or in a refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 10 weeks.

How much vaccine should I be ordering?

At this time, please only order what you believe your clinic can use over a one-month period. COVID-19 vaccine is currently on allocation, and in an attempt to fulfill as many orders as possible, we are asking clinics to limit orders according to this request. If you need additional doses before the month is over, you can always place additional orders.

Please note that at this time only a small amount of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is available; this includes all three Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine formulations: 6m–4yrs, 5yrs–11yrs, and 12+. We will be receiving more doses in the coming weeks, but do not know how many doses will be allocated. Currently we have both Moderna 6m–11yrs and Moderna 12+ that your clinic can order to ensure you receive the vaccines as quickly as possible and are able to begin vaccinating patients. If you prefer the Pfizer vaccines, we will try our best to fulfill your request as quickly as possible.

How do I place an order for my clinic?

While doses are on allocation, we are asking all pediatric CVP providers to submit orders via this [form](#). If you received a communication regarding ordering COVID-19 vaccine through the adult Bridge program, please use this order [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 in CT WiZ, another communication will be sent.

For more information on the Bridge program, please visit [CDC's website](#).

Are standing orders available for COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccine clinical materials have been updated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reflect guidance for the updated (2023-2024 Formula) mRNA vaccines.

You can find the new “one-stop-shop” webpage, that contains all COVID-19 vaccine clinical job aids here: [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information | CDC](#). Updates include:

- [Standing orders for Pfizer, ages 6 months through 4 years](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Standing orders for Moderna, ages 6 months through 4 years](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Standing orders for Pfizer, ages 5 years and older](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Standing orders for Moderna, ages 5 years and older](#) (updated 9/25/23)
- [Immunization schedule](#) (updated 9/25/23)

Other clinical materials, including the at-a-glances, shipping and handling labels, transport guidance, and the COVID-19 vaccine module are in progress.

What do I do with my expired CoVP COVID-19 vaccine?

If your clinic was enrolled to receive CoVP doses through the state and still has doses on hand, please refer to our previous [communication](#) regarding the conclusion of the CoVP. All of this vaccine has been deauthorized and should be adjusted out of your inventory on hand. These doses do not need to be returned to the manufacturer and can be disposed of properly. This is for all COVID-19 vaccine received through the State prior to September 11, 2023. All vaccine received after this date will need to be returned to the manufacturer. For more information please visit our [website](#).

Is there an updated Novavax vaccine available?

Yes. Novavax is available for ordering through the CVP and CVFA Bridge programs. Please use the [pediatric CVP order form](#) or the [adult Bridge order form](#) to place your Novavax order.

Yesterday, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) amended the emergency use authorization \(EUA\) of the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted for use in individuals 12 years of age and older to include the 2023-2024 formula](#). Individuals 12 years of age and older previously vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine (and who have not already been vaccinated with a recently updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) are eligible to receive one dose and unvaccinated individuals receive two doses.

As part of yesterday's action, the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, adjuvanted (original monovalent) is no longer authorized for use in the United States—see above on what to do with expired CoVP COVID-19 vaccine.