



CVP Update



National Influenza Vaccination Week is December 4-8th!

December 4-8th is [National Influenza Vaccination Week \(NIVW\)](#)! This week is an annual observance to remind everyone 6 months and older that there's still time to protect themselves and their loved ones from flu this flu season by getting their annual flu vaccine if they have not already.

Remind patients at your practice to get their annual flu vaccine by sharing this message through your patient portal or other communication methods.

Patient portal reminder for pediatrician offices:

Has your child received their annual flu vaccine yet? There's still time! Every year flu puts thousands of children in the hospital. A flu vaccine gives children 6 months and up extra strength to fight flu. Call our office at [PHONE NUMBER] to schedule their vaccine today!

View the CDC's [Information for Health Professionals website](#) for additional flu resources such as the [Fluview](#) and [FluVaxView](#) pages for current national influenza activity and vaccination coverage data.

Connecticut data (including influenza, COVID-19 and RSV) can be found on the Department of Public Health's [2023-2024 Viral Respiratory Disease Surveillance Dashboard](#).

You can also view and share the [Local NIVW events](#) as posted on our webpage under Events taking place across the state!

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Provider Re-Enrollment due 12/15:

Annual re-enrollment for all public and private health care providers who receive vaccine from the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) or the Adult Vaccine Program (CVFA) must be done electronically in CT WiZ. If you haven't completed your re-enrollment yet, please view our [re-enrollment page](#) for all the information you need. Re-enrollment must be completed by December 15th or providers will not be able to place vaccine orders for January.

Data Quality Corner:

Check out our [recent communications](#) from 11/28 and 10/31 about ordering COVID-19 vaccines in CT WiZ and limited RSV supply.

2024 Immunization Schedules are available and effective immediately:

On November 16, CDC posted the [2024 recommended immunization schedule for children and adolescents](#) on CDC's [Immunization Schedules for Healthcare Providers](#) web page.

The updated schedule for children and adolescents includes:

- Table 1: [Recommendations for Ages 18 Years or Younger, United States, 2024](#)
- Table 2: [Catch-Up Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Who Start Late or Who Are More than 1 Month Behind](#)
- Table 3: [Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule by Medical Indication](#)



Employee Spotlight

Nancy Sharova, Health Program Supervisor

Born and raised in Hartford, with an immigrant mom and immigrant paternal grandparents, Nancy became interested in health equity at a young age. She worked in human services, social work, social services, and currently works at the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Nancy received her M.P.H. from UCONN, and for the last twenty plus years has been in the Immunization Program serving in various roles. In her current role as a Health Program

Supervisor, she has the pleasure of supervising and working with an amazing team in managing contracts and managing the operations of the Immunization Information Systems (IIS), called CT WiZ, per our federal grant requirements. She is proud of our awesome Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Contractors who work to achieve health equity in areas at risk for low coverage rates through outreach, education, and training. Last year, Nancy was elected as an IIS Director on the American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) Board of Directors, and this October was elected to the Finance Committee. Nancy is honored to serve on the AIRA Board to further the mission to provide national resources to advance IISs and immunization programs. Nancy's favorite thing about working in public health are the passionate people at DPH and the immunization champions in the field who are dedicated to getting people vaccinated and updating their records in CT WiZ. In her free time, Nancy enjoys spending time with her family and friends at home, out enjoying live music, swimming, and currently writing her families' life story after her mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Nancy wishes you a healthy and safe holiday season with your loved ones – may you share beautiful memories together and she highly recommends sharing life stories.

Childhood Vaccination Rates:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated National Vaccination Coverage by Age 24 Months and Kindergarten Vaccination Coverage Reports. You can view this data in two Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs).

- [Vaccination Coverage by Age 24 Months Among Children Born in 2019 and 2020 — National Immunization Survey-Child](#)
 - “Overall coverage with recommended childhood vaccinations remains high; however, persistent disparities in coverage among children in racial and ethnic minority groups, as well as those who are not privately insured, who live in rural areas, and who live below the poverty level must be addressed to ensure that all children are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Providers can help reduce disparities by:
 - * Emphasizing strong clinical recommendations
 - * Identifying additional venues for vaccine administration
 - * Enhancing reminder and recall interventions.”
- [Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption from School Vaccine Requirements Among Children in Kindergarten](#)
 - The 2022-2023 nationwide kindergarten immunization rates have still not returned to pre-pandemic levels but were stable compared to the previous school year. Connecticut remains an outlier when compared to nationwide numbers due to the impact of religious exemption legislation changes, with an increase in 2022-2023 kindergarten immunization rates compared to the previous school year. The 2022-2023 Connecticut School Immunization Survey results can be viewed on the [DPH website](#).
- Providers can visit: [Resources to Encourage Routine Childhood Vaccinations | CDC](#)

Provider Spotlight

Hartford High School's School Based Health Center - "The Body Shop"

Affectionately known as "The Body Shop", the school-based health center housed in Hartford High School has taken the reins on student vaccination and overall health. This center has created a model to offer episodic care, mental health resources, dental services, sports and school entry physicals, health education, and complete vaccination services in their clinic. Their team consists of a mental health clinician, a physician assistant, a medical assistant, a clinic dental hygienist, and nurse Dana. As a small team of five, these clinicians have centered wellness, trust, and happiness in their work to serve hundreds of students. "The level of trust we've been able to build with our students, especially in an ever-changing culture, is one of our biggest successes," says Dana. "We are able to provide a safe and comfortable environment to really find out what their individual needs are." With many of the staff being Hartford natives, serving their community holds a special place in their hearts. Hartford High School is home to an incredibly diverse student population from many areas; the staff starts reviewing records as early as possible to make sure every student can enter the school year on time. One of their top priorities is to not delay school start, students should have access to the classroom immediately. They accomplish this by ensuring students are up-to-date on all vaccinations required for school entry or implementing a catch-up schedule if behind. Often, students are local to the Hartford area, but the school also welcomes many migrant students every year from other areas outside of the U.S. At all times, the clinic is ready to administer ACIP recommended vaccines and create plans of care for other specific needs. The Body Shop serves as a critical access point of care for many families, "Our parents are so appreciative of the access students have within the clinic, because mom and dad are able to stay at work and not have to leave for doctors' appointments," says Dana. In addition to direct access and an array of services for students, they have also built a network of providers to refer students to when specialists may be needed or when school is closed. Their team is dedicated to creating and keeping continuity of care for their students in equitable spaces.

Vaccination can often be one of the first halts to school start. Hartford High School's school-based health center has made it their mission to combat this while addressing other care concerns for their students and other students within the district. Though the center may not be a long-term medical home, it has become home to many students that will stop in just to say hello, talk about Friday night's game, or write papers on healthcare topics with staff help. The Body Shop has taken a prominent role not only in vaccination, but in providing total care for their students.



Photo on left (left to right): Patricia Parlante, LPC (clinic mental health clinician), Dana Henry RN, Emily Ruegg, PA-C, (clinic Physician assistant).

Photo on right: Antonella Dellaripa, the clinic dental hygienist

Not pictured: Medical Assistant, Carmen Amaro



Photo: [Source](#)

COVID-19 Look Back: Where were you on December 14, 2020?

Do you remember the day? Three years ago, the first COVID-19 vaccines in Connecticut were delivered and administered. It was 9:00 AM when the first COVID-19 vaccines arrived at the hospital's loading docks and the public caught the first glimpse of the huge boxes of vaccines live on the news. At the parking lot in front of the hospital was a tent, hospital staff, press, and Governor Lamont ready for this momentous event to vaccinate health care providers. Our Department of Public Health (DPH) staff talked about how we felt like it was like watching the man landed on the moon – that feeling of hope. Over these last three years since that memorable day, here is a snippet of our DPH Immunization Program and Providers' accomplishments together:

- Enrolled providers in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) and supported providers to post on Vaccines.gov.
- Held webinars, office hours, sent provider memos, and prepared training manuals and updated webpages to provide real-time updates about the CoVP.
- Trained providers on the CDC system VAMS, and transitioned providers off VAMs when COVID-19 vaccine allocation and scheduling ended
- Onboarded ~2500 clinics with the Immunization Information System (IIS) CT WiZ.
- Implemented monthly CT WiZ Data Quality Reports for providers.
- Launched daily data dashboard of COVID-19 data on the State Open Data Portal through June 2023.
- Updated our [immunization Program](#) webpages as a “go to source” of [communications](#) and [trainings](#) for providers and the public.
- Launched a centralized [Helpdesk](#) for providers to electronically submit requests for support.
- Launched [CT WiZ Public Portal](#) (in English and Spanish) for the public to securely access their immunization record.
- Launched [Submissions Portals](#) through phases of the pandemic to enable electronic submissions for support or forms.
- Providers implemented mobile and walk-up clinics. Connecticut offered assistance with scheduling and transportation to COVID-19 vaccine appointments.
- Connecticut implemented FEMA Mobile Vaccine Units from March 2021 through June 2021– with the Bridgeport unit being the first unit in the country!
- Implemented Mobile Yellow Vans and Homebound Vaccinations from March 2021 through June 2023.
- Expanded CT WiZ to a lifespan system after [State law](#) passed requiring electronic reporting for all ages and all vaccines.
- Established interstate IIS to IIS electronic data exchange (12 jurisdictions) and Federal Providers to IIS data exchange (Veterans Health Administration and Refugee IIS).
- In September 2023, the CoVP ended, and COVID-19 vaccines became part of the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) for children, and the Bridge Access Program began for adults without health insurance and whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs.
- DPH posts [weekly viral respiratory disease updates](#) as of October 2023.
- Implemented 36 monthly enhancement releases in CT WiZ to meet the many new vaccine requirements.
- Since September 2023, implemented monthly Reminder/Recall reports in CT WiZ to assist providers to catch up children who are not up to date.
- Re-enrolling providers in the CVP and Adult Vaccine Program (CVFA) by December 15.

These highlights demonstrate how much Connecticut has established with the infrastructure and collaborations to support response to outbreaks and pandemics. **THANK YOU** for ensuring patients are vaccinated and have complete, consolidated records in CT WiZ! You've embraced technology by learning new procedures in CT WiZ. *During these years, it has been an emotional time for many, and we acknowledge the loss and stress. We truly hope, especially during the holidays, that you can take time for yourself, and we hope you are proud of your accomplishments over these years!*