



CVP Update



Happy 30th Anniversary! 1994-2024

Where were you 30 years ago? Do you remember the 1989–1991 measles outbreak? Sadly, 89 children lost their lives to the sudden and devastating measles outbreak that swept the U.S. between 1989–1991. That outbreak resulted in 27,600 measles cases. That outbreak identified a nationwide need for tracking immunizations, generating population-based coverage analytics, providing access to free vaccines, and outreach and education. That measles outbreak was the catalyst for federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish the infrastructure of Immunization Information Systems (IIS), the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and Immunization Action Plan (IAP), and over the last 3 decades immunization programs have modernized these systems and programs.

Look how far we have come.

Are you using the full functionality of all our programs?



CT WiZ

- Since 1994, State law established the Immunization Information Systems (IIS), now called CT WiZ. Initially, vaccines were recorded for children living in Hartford only, but by 1998, had expanded to statewide for all pre-school age children. By 2022, reporting of all vaccine doses administered was mandated for people of all ages

living in CT. This expansion was made possible through **electronic reporting to CT WiZ**.

- Since 2021, the **CT WiZ Public Portal** allows individuals vaccinated in Connecticut to access their own, or parents to access their minor child’s immunization records. CT WiZ meets accessibility standards and is available in English and Spanish. Nearly half a million people have accessed their records!
- CT WiZ has **secure IIS to IIS exchange** with 14 other IISs and 2 federal partners, and continues to establish connections to help ensure complete records.
- CT WiZ coverage rates are available on the **Open Data Portal** and by request. This was especially crucial during the pandemic.
- CT WiZ meets national standard requirements for tracking and administration of immunizations in a public health setting.



See our badge to the left that CT WiZ has been “validated” for meeting all the IIS national validation measures!

If you need assistance with reporting or training on CT WiZ, visit our [CT WiZ website](#).

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Contact Us: **860-509-7929**
or click [here](#)

For a current list of IAP
Contacts

[Immunization Action Plan \(IAP\)](#)



**New DPH
Logo!**

If you didn’t notice already, our agency has a **new logo!** The Connecticut Department of Public Health, along with other state agencies, are adopting new branding that aims to create consistency across state agencies. We are working through updating our webpages and frequently used documents.

VFC PROGRAM

After 30 years of the VFC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the success of the VFC program nationwide.

SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 1994,

472M ILLNESSES

prevented through VFC



DEATHS 1.052M

avoided with the help of VFC



\$2.2 TRILLION COSTS SAVED

in societal costs saved through VFC



PROTECTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN EVERY DAY!

Thank you for being a part of this!

CVP/VFC

- The national Vaccines for Children (VFC) program helps ensure all children have a better chance at getting their recommended vaccines by providing vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. In Connecticut, this program is called the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP).
- See the infographic to the left for some statistics for the VFC program nationwide.

If you need assistance with anything related to the CVP, visit our [CVP website](#).

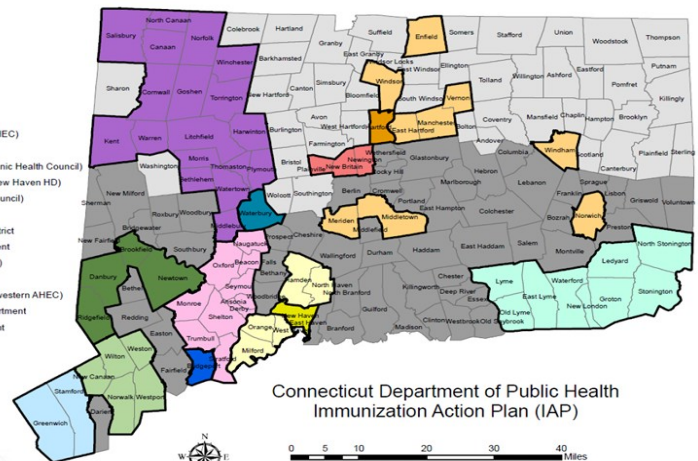
IAP

- The Immunization Action Plan (IAP) are contracts awarded by the Department of Public Health (DPH) Immunization Program that operate mostly in local health departments/districts in areas at risk of low immunization rates, with the goal of raising childhood immunization rates through outreach, education, and community and local partnerships.
- Connecticut's IAP was launched in 1993.
- The IAP covers a large portion of the state. Of children born in Connecticut in 2020, 62% reside in a town that is covered by an IAP! (See the colored towns on the map below!)

If you need outreach and educational assistance from your local IAP Coordinator, visit our [IAP website](#) for the map and contact information.

Legend

- IAP Areas**
- Bridgeport (Southwestern AHEC)
 - Danbury Area (Norwalk HD)
 - Greater Hartford Area (Hispanic Health Council)
 - Greater New Haven Area (New Haven HD)
 - Hartford (Hispanic Health Council)
 - Ledge Light Health District
 - Naugatuck Valley Health District
 - New Britain Health Department
 - New Haven (New Haven HD)
 - Norwalk Area (Norwalk HD)
 - Stamford/Greenwich (Southwestern AHEC)
 - Torrington Area Health Department
 - Waterbury Health Department
 - Non-IAP North Region
 - Non-IAP South Region



Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Action Plan (IAP)



Today and Tomorrow...

Does it feel like déjà vu? History may seem like it is repeating itself with the recent increase in [measles activity](#). But today, we have the infrastructure in place with CT WiZ, CVP, and IAP. In addition, we have newer methods of communication such as our website, the Everbridge platform, helpdesk, and social media. As **we continue to modernize our systems**, we will continue to focus on data quality, access, security, and meeting national standards. The goal is to make each patient record available, complete, timely, and valid.

- [Visit our Immunization Program website](#) to stay up to date on latest communications, trainings, and to request support from our programs.
- **THANK YOU!** It is because of YOU, all the partners in Connecticut that remain diligent, as you ensure residents are up to date with their vaccinations. Thank you for **celebrating 30 years with us**. We look forward to our continued partnerships!

Provider Spotlight

Southwest Community Health Center

Southwest Community Health Center (CHC) is dedicated to providing high quality, accessible medical, dental and behavioral health services to individuals and families in the Greater Bridgeport area. They provide vital healthcare access for the uninsured, medically underserved residents of Southwest Bridgeport community. Southwest CHC has four clinics that serve the pediatric population and seven School-Based Health Centers. Ensuring their patients are protected with all age-appropriate recommended immunizations has always been very important to Southwest CHC. Southwest CHC has always had relatively high immunization rates among their practices, but the COVID-19 pandemic hindered their rates.

Howard Smith, Southwest CHC's Chief of Pediatrics, along with other organization leadership, such as Kristina Colon, Infection Prevention & Vaccine Manager, and Arlene Higgins, Director of Nursing, decided to focus one of their quality improvement metrics on immunizations to help their rates recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, they implemented an immunization challenge among all their Southwest CHC pediatric sites to see who could administer the most vaccines. Patients aged 2–18 years were the focus of this challenge, but all ages within the pediatric spectrum were included.

The four main pediatric sites met and reported out weekly to see who was in the lead. The Southwest CHC school-based health centers even got in on the fun and participated in the immunization challenge! The weekly meeting time was also utilized to bounce ideas off one another and discuss any successes or challenges they were experiencing.

Utilizing a combination of reports from their electronic health record (EHR) and CT WiZ, they determined which patients were due or overdue for vaccines and would call to get them in and up to date as soon as possible. There were challenges due to time limitations and staffing, but the greatest success of this initiative was attributed to having an immunization champion identified to take the lead at each site. The champions were able to ignite a fire amongst the team, making this truly a fun, engaging team effort from the leadership to the office staff!

Their pediatric immunization rates (for all ACIP recommended vaccines excluding influenza and COVID-19) sitewide started at 45% and have increased to 63% with an upward trajectory. The goal they have set is to reach 75% coverage by the end of summer 2024.



Southwest CHC Website: <https://www.swchc.org>

Check out Southwest CHC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthwestCHC/>

Left to right in the back row:

Arlene Higgins, DNS; Melanie DeRobertto, MA; Alexandra Rivera, MA; Koketa Drayton, LPN; Sheila Ferreira, Patient Service Representative; Sarah Bohrer, MD; Valerie Irizarry, Patient Service Representative; Howard Smith, PA; Carmen Rivera-Torres, CNO; Dayle Wade, LPN

Left to right in the front row:

Nikki Carino, APRN; Shadeth Ortiz, LPN

Data Quality Corner

IMPORTANT: How to Report a Cyberthreat/Incident to Ensure Security

Security is a top priority. CT WiZ interfaces are continuously monitored to ensure security of data. CT WiZ has *not* experienced any threats or incidents, but we are being proactive.

PLEASE FOLLOW 3 STEPS (Alert, Stop, Resume):

If your facility has onboarded or has user access to CT WiZ and experiences a cyberthreat or incident, please take immediate steps to ensure security of CT WiZ data as below:

1. **Alert** – Submit a [Helpdesk ticket](#), select Immunizations (CT WiZ) – select category: **‘Cyberthreat/Incident’** – topic: **‘Reporting a Threat/Incident’** – topic: **‘Reporting Resolution of Threat/Incident’**. Or call (860) 509-7929. Provide as much information as you can including: the date it started, which system was involved, your contact information, and the date it was resolved.
2. **Stop** – CT WiZ team will **temporarily stop your access** to CT WiZ (HL7 and UI) to proactively prevent any user interface (UI) access or (HL7) query to CT WiZ. If you need to request an immunization record in the interim, call (860) 509-7929. Patients may continue to access the CT WiZ Public Portal.
3. **Resume** – After you notify the CT WiZ team that your facility’s threat/incident has resolved, your staff can then **resume user access** after we enable password reset. We will also then reactivate HL7 facility codes for your HL7 reporting/query. CT WiZ team will provide additional support as needed.

Updating Data Code Sets in your EHRs

Have you subscribed to receive email updates from the [IIS Data Code Sets | CDC webpage](#)?

- This enables you to keep your electronic health record (EHR) system updated (as new vaccine codes are added) and to ensure accurate reporting to CT WiZ.
- Please see the [NEW Preview of the Trivalent Influenza Vaccine Codes for 2024/2025 Season](#).
- Remember to view the current list of the [Vaccines Supplied by Connecticut Vaccine Program \(CVP\)](#).

Employee Spotlight

Gabrielle Diaz, Health Program Assistant



Gabrielle joined the Immunization Program in October 2022 after working in local health throughout the State of Connecticut for three years. She received both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health degrees from Sacred Heart University. Originally from a small town in New Hampshire, Gabrielle came to Connecticut for college and has been here ever since! Her role as Health Program Assistant includes working on data quality in CT WiZ, managing Helpdesk tickets, and putting together the Immunization Program’s social media posts each month. Gabrielle loves to travel (especially to Disney), go out to dinner, and spend time at home with her husband and black cat, Luna. When she’s not working, you can find her at the gym or planning her next vacation. She is currently preparing to train for a half marathon she will be running early next year! Gabrielle recently got married and kicked off her marriage with a two week honeymoon of a lifetime traveling across Europe. She is enjoying married life and is looking forward to reaching her personal and career goals in the future.



With summer camps and the back-to-school rush on the horizon, don’t forget to promote the [CT WiZ Public Portal](#) to your patients. The Public Portal can save your office time by enabling patients the ability to access their own or their child’s immunization record securely online.