



CVP Update



August is National Immunization Awareness Month!

Make an Effective Vaccine Recommendation during National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the efforts of healthcare professionals to protect patients of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time vaccination.

During NIAM, the Connecticut Department of Public Health encourages you to ensure your patients are up to date on recommended vaccines. Research has consistently shown that healthcare professionals are the most trusted source of vaccine information for parents and patients. As a medical provider, you have the power to ensure your patients are protected from serious diseases like measles, cancers caused by HPV, and seasonal flu. Your recommendation is the number one reason that parents choose to vaccinate their child on time.

Assess vaccination status at every visit; so, you can ensure your patients are up to date on all recommended vaccines. When recommending vaccines, use a presumptive approach that assumes parents will choose to vaccinate their child. For example, try saying: “Your child is due for these vaccines today” instead of “What do you want to do about vaccines today?” It is important to recommend all vaccines the same way and for every child. Your non-verbal cues, your body language, should match your message.

Questions from parents don’t mean they distrust their medical provider. Be prepared to answer common vaccine concerns. For parents who want to delay or space out vaccines, you can explain that following the recommended schedule is the best way to protect against serious diseases and delaying vaccines could leave their child vulnerable to serious complications. Share CDC’s [parent-friendly immunization schedule](#); so, parents know what to expect at each visit. CDC has developed a [toolkit](#) to assist you in communicating with parents.

Be a champion for vaccination in your practice. Ensure everyone in your practice is sharing a consistent message with parents about the importance of vaccines for their child.

Guidance on [Providing Pediatric Well-Care](#) during COVID-19 is also available from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Communities across the country use this month each year to raise awareness about the important role vaccines play in preventing serious, sometimes deadly, diseases across the lifespan. Check for [Connecticut events](#) in your area.

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Fall Adult Influenza Conference

The Adult Influenza Conference will be held online over several days in two-hour intervals. Please add the following dates to your calendar. Speakers and topics may change.

- **9/9 - Influenza and Pneumococcal Updates**
- **9/29 - COVID-19 Vaccines and the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response**
- **10/14 - Messaging to disparate populations**

Full conference information will be coming later.

The Importance of Influenza Vaccinations

This fall, more than ever, it is imperative that all Connecticut residents receive an influenza vaccine. Infectious disease experts warn of influenza and COVID-19 circulating simultaneously this winter, which raises concern that healthcare resources could once again be overwhelmed. Influenza vaccine is one of the most effective tools we have for minimizing the impact of this double threat.

CDC recently published its [Frequently Asked Influenza \(Flu\) Questions: 2020-2021 Season](#). Included this year are some answers to questions concerning safe administration of flu vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) has officially expanded the age for no cost influenza vaccine up through the age of 18. Doses of flu are expected to become available sometime in August with the bulk of vaccine arriving in September and October. Provider offices will be notified when they can start ordering influenza doses.

This year, it is vitally important to begin immunizing your patients as soon as vaccine becomes available.



ASTHO Podcast Episode on Flu Season



ASTHO's "Public Health Review" podcast recently released an episode featuring Dr. Nancy Messonnier and Dr. Jose Romero discussing flu season preparations and improving routine immunization rates. The two experts give the national and state-level perspective of what to expect this upcoming flu season, and why it's so important to adhere to a vaccination schedule. [Listen here.](#)

"Vaccinate your Child" promotes importance for children to get shots and check-ups to protect them now!

Bi-lingual flyers for parents are available [here](#).



Back to School and Immunizations



Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, immunizations remain critical in protecting students from vaccine preventable diseases. There is a need for all students to be up to date on their immunizations when school starts in the fall of 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in sharp declines in outpatient pediatric visits and fewer vaccine doses being administered, leaving children at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases. The Connecticut Immunization Program surveyed pediatric vaccine providers to determine whether a grace period should be considered for immunizations required for the start of school this fall. Based on the responses from the survey, and from discussions with other state and federal partners, the [Immunization Program](#) decided that it is in the best interest of all students to be up to date on their immunizations for the start of school.

Ensuring that immunization services are maintained or reinitiated is essential for protecting students and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks and reducing the burden of respiratory illness during the upcoming influenza season.

A collection of [federal resources](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention designed to guide safe vaccine planning during COVID-19 are available.



“Don’t be late. Catch the CT WiZ bus!”

CT WiZ is your ride to get kids vaccinated on-time and ready for school

CT WiZ Webinar for Providers! [Register here](#)

Wednesday August 12th from 12pm –1pm

CT WiZ is the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Immunization Information System (IIS). CT WiZ provides a centralized repository for immunization records and clinical decision support, and enables you to order vaccines, manage inventory, and assess clinic coverage levels. This webinar will update you on how CT WiZ will decrease health care provider burden for maintaining immunizations during this COVID-19 pandemic with various reports to help get your patients vaccinated on-time and ready for school. Learn how CT DPH can Help You: 1) Onboard with CT WiZ 2) Utilize CT WiZ Reports 3) Access IAP Outreach 4) Find Helpful Resources.

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CONTACT US

Please visit our [website](#) for the most up to date information.

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