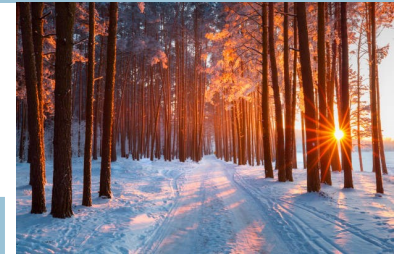




CVP Update



Flu Vaccination Coverage Estimates from the 2020–21 Season Show Widening Disparities


CDC released national data on [flu vaccination coverage](#) during the current 2020–2021 flu season, suggesting that many people across the United States remain unvaccinated. Notably, while less than half of children overall had been vaccinated, only a third of Black, non-Hispanic children were vaccinated, which is 11 percentage points lower than last season. It is important to make sure all of your patients age 6 months and older are vaccinated. Flu vaccination can help save medical resources for the care of COVID-19 patients by reducing the burden of flu illness on healthcare systems. If you don't provide influenza vaccine at your site, please strongly recommend vaccination and refer to a site that does vaccinate. The more people vaccinated; the more people protected.

You can check coverage levels at [CDC's FluVaxView](#).

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Behind on vaccinations?

There continues to be a troubling drop in the ordering and administration of routine pediatric vaccines as a result of families staying at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare professionals and families need to work together to ensure children get caught up or stay on track with vaccines. Providers should reinforce the importance of maintaining routine immunizations during the pandemic. Please review your roster or run the CT WiZ Patient Reminder/Recall report to see what children are behind on their vaccinations. For CT WiZ trainings on how to run these reports, visit:

[CT WiZ Patient Management](#)

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

Now more than ever, it is important for healthcare providers to share accurate vaccine information to patients. There are several myths going around and it is up to all of us to share the FACTS regarding the COVID-19 vaccine (and other vaccines) so that we can get the public vaccinated and ultimately reach herd immunity.

Visit the CDC's website for the [facts](#) about COVID-19 vaccines, like how a vaccine won't give an individual the COVID-19 virus, how a vaccine won't cause an individual to test positive for COVID-19, how a vaccine will not alter your DNA, and more.

Adolescent Vaccines and Meningitis ACWY

According to data from CDC, coverage rates across the United States for several recommended adolescent vaccinations are quite low. The data below highlights national immunization rates for adolescent vaccines.

- The coverage rate for the second (booster) dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY), which is recommended at age 16, was only 44% by the 18th birthday.
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine coverage for ≥1 dose among all adolescents was only 66% (69% for females; 63% for males); and only 49% of all adolescents were fully vaccinated with a complete series (53% for females; 44% for males).
- Less than half (47%) of adolescents age 13–17 years had received influenza vaccine.

It's serious: Meningococcal disease, though rare, can cripple or kill, often without warning. Most cases occur at random, not in outbreaks; transmitted in crowded settings. It is difficult to diagnose; mimics symptoms of common illnesses, it rapidly progresses and can lead to shock, coma, and death within 24 hours.

- Even with proper treatment of those who are infected, 10%–15% die
- 11%–19% of survivors suffer lifelong disability (hearing loss, amputation of arms or legs, or brain damage). It affects all ages, but especially adolescents and young adults.
- 16–23 year olds are at the highest risk.

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (MenACWY*) is safe, effective, and recommended and will prevent meningitis. Not just 1 shot, but 2: First dose of MenACWY at 11–12 years of age (recommended since 2005) AND a second dose at 16 years of age (recommended since 2010).

Make meningococcal disease prevention part of your anticipatory guidance for adolescent and young adult patients. A strong recommendation will make a difference. Click [here](#) to view additional resources to enhance your efforts at increasing rates of 2 doses of MenACWY.



CT WiZ Updates

CT WiZ Confidentiality Agreement



Every two years, the DPH Immunization Program is required to send the 'CT WiZ Confidentiality Agreement' to the medical director who signs the CVP Provider Agreement and the Local Health Director for signature.

- An updated 2021 cover letter and CT WiZ confidentiality agreement will be sent via Everbridge and posted on [our website](#). This agreement will not require anything additional from your clinic besides ensuring staff maintain confidentiality of the data in CT WiZ.
- **Please sign and return by fax to (860) 707-1925 by March 1st.**

CT DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Providers

If you're already a CoVP Vaccine Provider, visit our [CoVP Communications](#) webpage for the most up-to-date communications from DPH. Interested in enrolling as a CoVP Vaccine Provider? Visit our website for the [steps to complete enrollment](#).

Other helpful COVID-related webpages:

- Detailed information for recipients about the [Phases](#), appointment scheduling and more
- Governor's [COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group](#)