

STATE OF CONNECTICUT


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Immunization Program

TO: All CVP Providers
FROM: Mick Bolduc 
Vaccine Coordinator-Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP)
DATE: March 25, 2021
SUBJECT: Catch up Vaccinations of Children

The primary purpose of this communication is to remind you of the on-going need to get children caught up on their missing vaccinations due to the effects of the pandemic.

Steep Decline in Vaccine Orders

Over the past year Covid-19 has had many detrimental effects on our lives including a substantial decline in pediatric visits resulting in a decrease in CDC childhood vaccine orders of approximately 11 million doses. We appreciate all your continued efforts in keeping yourselves, your staff, and your patients safe in this challenging environment. However, we want to re-emphasize the continued issue of too many children falling behind with their well child visits and subsequent schedule of vaccinations. Below is a list of recommendations from Nancy Messonnier MD, Director of the National Center for Immunization & Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) for providers, healthcare systems, schools, and government agencies to implement to bring children back on schedule and up to date with all missing immunizations and scheduled appointments.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 509-7940.



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Help Kids' Safe Return to School - Get Caught Up on Recommended Vaccines

COVID-19 disrupted both in-person learning and routine well-child visits for many children over the last year. As a result, too many children have fallen behind on receiving recommended vaccines¹. We all want our kids to be back in school safely, and that means getting caught up on vaccines that were missed over the last year. CDC's public sector vaccine ordering data show a 14% drop in 2020-2021 compared to 2019, and measles vaccine is down by more than 20%. Kids need to get caught up now so that they are protected as they go back to in-person learning. Catch-up vaccination will require efforts from healthcare systems, health care providers, schools, state and local governments, and families.

Healthcare systems and healthcare providers should:

- Identify families whose children have missed doses and contact them to schedule appointments
- Prompt clinicians when these children are seen to deliver vaccines that are due or overdue
- Let families know what precautions are in place for safe delivery of in-person services

Healthcare provider organizations should:

- Encourage members to identify and follow up with families whose children have missed doses to get appointments scheduled

Schools and state and local governments agencies should:

- Send reminders to families about school immunization requirements
- Follow-up with families of children who are not in compliance with requirements to encourage compliance
- Use the state's immunization information system's reminder-recall capacity to notify families whose children have fallen behind on vaccines

We all should:

- Communicate directly to families the importance of well-child visits and getting caught up on any recommended vaccines that were missed

Help us protect children by doing what you can to get kids caught up on recommended vaccines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Messonnier".

Nancy Messonnier, MD
Senior Official, CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force
Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization: Vaccination Programs. [ACIP Vaccination Programs Guidelines for Immunization | Recommendations | CDC](#). Accessed March 21, 2021.