

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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TO: Healthcare Providers not currently enrolled in the CT Vaccine Program

FROM: Matthew Cartter, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH)

Kathy Kudish, DVM, MSPH
Immunization Program Manager

Handwritten signature of Kathy Kudish in blue ink.

DATE: September 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Pre-Registration for Providers Interested in Receiving and Administering COVID-19 Vaccines

The purpose of this communication is to gauge the interest of practicing health care providers in administering COVID-19 vaccine. **Once you have read this communication, click on the link on the next page and complete a survey if you wish to pre-register your practice or clinic site as a COVID-19 vaccine provider. Please submit only one survey per practice or clinic. Pre-registration is non-binding.** Provider practices already enrolled in the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP) are being asked to complete a separate survey and do not need to complete this one.

COVID-19 vaccination will take a phased approach. In phase 1, which may begin as early as November 2020, doses will be very limited, and dispensing will be characterized by highly targeted administration to critical workforce and the staff and residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities. Most community-based providers will not have an active role during this phase. During phase 2, a large number of doses will become available and broad administration will be required to achieve population level immunity. It is at this stage that community-based providers will play a key role. As we are sure you are aware, there are multiple candidate vaccines currently in clinical trials so it is not yet known which vaccine(s) will be approved.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently shared the following COVID-19 vaccine planning assumptions:

- Two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, separated by ≥ 21 or > 28 days, will be needed for some vaccine candidates; both doses will need to be with the same product.
- COVID-19 vaccine providers must sign a Federal COVID-19 vaccination agreement and enroll with their state immunization program to receive vaccine.



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- Enrolled vaccination providers will order and receive COVID-19 vaccines from their state immunization program. Vaccines will not be available for purchase.
- COVID-19 vaccines and ancillary supplies (including needles and syringes for vaccine reconstitution and administration and limited masks and face shields) will be distributed **at no cost** to enrolled COVID-19 vaccination providers.
- Insurance reimbursement for vaccine and administration costs are under consideration.
- Some vaccine candidates require ultra-low cold (ULC) chain. However, purchase of storage devices for ULC storage is not recommended at this time.
- Dose level accountability and near-real-time reporting of doses administered by providers is an expectation of the federal government. In CT, this will be achieved through CT WiZ, Connecticut's web-based Immunization Information System. Providers may report either via an electronic interface (bi-directional data exchange) or by data entry into the CT WiZ user interface.

Please complete the survey at the following link by Friday September 25:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVIDVAX>

We ask that only one survey be submitted per practice (i.e. per physical location).

If you are interested in participating in the COVID-19 vaccination efforts but are not currently affiliated with a practice, volunteer opportunities exist through the Medical Reserve Corps. Visit [CT Responds](#) for more information.

Now is the time to plan for administering COVID-19 vaccine at your practice, if you have not already done so. Plans should incorporate infection prevention methods that would be necessary to dispense vaccine during active community transmission of COVID-19. Strategies and guidance are available on the [Immunization Program web site](#). A COVID-19 Vaccine Providers page is a link from our main page. We will provide additional guidance and archive communications on this page.

Many challenges lie ahead, and much remains uncertain. CT DPH looks forward to the opportunity to partner with you on this vitally important COVID-19 vaccine response. Once you have pre-registered the Immunization Program can keep you informed about what you will need to do and how the situation evolves. If you have any questions about the pre-registration process please contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929 or email dph.immunizations@ct.gov.