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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**Students vaccinated by Aug. 3 will return
to school fully vaccinated this fall**

Parents checking off their to-do list as their child returns to school – buying new pencils and a backpack, shopping for a new back-to-school outfit and checking on the class schedule – should add getting their child vaccinated against COVID-19.

Children aged 12 and older who get their first dose by August 3 can be fully vaccinated before school starts after Labor Day. Those who receive both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have the most protection against the virus and fully vaccinated students can return to school safer this fall, say officials with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

Superintendents across the health department's four-county jurisdiction are encouraging their students to get vaccinated so they can fully enjoy in-person learning and special activities as they return to school this fall. The shot gives students not only protection from the virus but also saves them the inconvenience of having to quarantine should they be exposed to a COVID-19 case.

"Vaccination provides a very high level of protection from COVID, but also protects students who are exposed as a close contact from (having to be) quarantined," said Boyne City Public Schools Superintendent Patrick Little. "This allows them to continue on as normal with in-person learning, sports, and extra-curricular activities," he said.

Cindy Pineda, Superintendent/K-12 Administrator for Boyne Falls Public Schools hopes to repeat last school year's zero transmission rate within the school community for the upcoming school year. "We would like to have zero COVID transmission within the school building for the 2021-2022 school year. The best way to achieve this goal is to encourage all students and staff 12 years old and older to complete their vaccines before the start of the school year," Pineda said. "Do your part and protect yourself. If the majority of our 12+ population is fully vaccinated, we can decrease the mitigation factors/procedures that we have to deploy during the school year. Our main goal remains the same, to keep our students and staff safe and protected while we educate daily," she said.

East Jordan Public Schools Superintendent Matt Stevenson noted that face-to-face learning is vital for the academic and social/emotional health of students. "Vaccinations will help reduce transmission in school and will cut down on time missed due to contact tracing and quarantine timelines," he said. "For students returning to school this fall, we highly recommend the vaccination as another layer of protection and to eliminate or reduce time missed due to quarantine and illness. We want to have our kids in school and get back to focus on students and learning. We all need to work together to make this happen," Stevenson added.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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Students are welcome at any of the health department clinics offering the Pfizer vaccine and have the option of scheduling an appointment ahead of time or simply walking in. Parent consent is required. Parents should call 800-432-4121 if they have questions or are not able to find a time or date that works for them and their child. Clinics offer client choice of Pfizer, Moderna or J&J unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming clinics include:

Friday, July 16

- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - DerMiner's Parkside Market, 7131 Old 27 N St., Gaylord. Vaccine: Pfizer or J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 2:30-5 p.m. - Gaylord Alpenfest, Downtown Gaylord. Vaccine: Pfizer or J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Monday, July 19

- 1-4:25 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W. Garfield Ave, Charlevoix. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, July 21

- 1-4:25 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Thursday, July 22

- 8:15-11:30 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 2-6 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Friday, July 23

- 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Elk Rapids Farmers Market, 305 US-31, Elk Rapids. Vaccine: Pfizer or J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 6-8 p.m. - Venetian Festival, Bridge St., Charlevoix. Vaccine: Pfizer or J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Saturday, July 24

- 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. - Northern Michigan Antique Flywheelers, 145 US-131, Boyne Falls. Vaccine: Pfizer or J&J. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

The calendar on the website www.nwhealth.org lists clinics currently scheduled through August 12.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department of Northwest Michigan jurisdiction by [liking and following our Facebook page](#) and visiting our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#). To track the risk levels of COVID-19 pandemic indicators, visit the [MI Safe Start Map website](#). For more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the MDHHS [vaccine website](#) or the [CDC vaccine website](#).