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**Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update**

**COVID-19 vaccinations for 5-11 year olds may occur in early November**  
***Health Department officials 'cautiously optimistic' about roll out date***

Advisory Committees to the FDA and CDC are scheduled to meet in the next few weeks to consider approval of the Pfizer vaccine for 5–11-year-old children, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and other providers are planning how they will roll out the vaccine once available.

“Once these national committees have reviewed the data, I am hopeful that the vaccine will be shown to be safe and effective,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director with the health department. “I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to provide vaccine to 5-11 year olds in early November, and we are starting to plan accordingly,” Dr. Meyerson added.

The Food and Drug Administration’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet October 26 to discuss Pfizer’s submission for vaccines for 5-11-year-old children. Following that, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is scheduled to meet November 2-3. Vaccinations for 5-11-year-olds would not begin until after CDC makes a recommendation for use.

Dr. Meyerson and other health officials are working now to prepare key partners to make the vaccine available for 5- to 11-year olds. Besides local health departments, those partners include pediatric provider offices, school-based health programs, pharmacies, and federally qualified health centers. As currently planned, the Pfizer vaccine for ages 5-11 will be a formulation of 10 mcg (compared to 30 mcg for ages 12 and older) and be packaged with an orange cap to differentiate it from the purple capped vial for those 12 and older.

However, at this time, no COVID-19 vaccine is yet approved and available to this age group, and parents/guardians will need to wait to schedule the vaccine for their children under the age of 12 until authorization is given by the FDA.

Until the vaccine is available for this younger population, the best practice for good health remains mitigation measures including wearing a mask in indoor settings that properly covers the mouth and nose, washing hands frequently, staying home if you are sick, and getting tested if you show any symptoms or are exposed to someone with COVID-19.

*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](http://nwhealth.org).*

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In addition, the health department is awaiting final word from federal agencies before being able to offer the general public a Moderna or J&J booster shot for those who are six months out from receiving their vaccinations. Booster doses for both Moderna and J&J vaccines could begin as early as next week.

The health department recently created documents listing COVID-19 [vaccination clinics](#) and [testing sites](#) in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. Residents are urged to check the individual clinic sites listed for vaccine availability Moderna (age 18+), Pfizer (age 12+), and Johnson & Johnson (age 18+). Parent/guardian must accompany minors.

[Booster shots](#) are available if you received the Pfizer vaccine more than 6 months ago and are:

- Age 65+
- Resident or staff in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ and have [underlying medical conditions](#) including asthma, diabetes, obesity
- Age 18+ and work in [high-risk settings](#) including healthcare workers, teachers, grocery store workers

[Additional doses](#) are recommended for immunocompromised individuals who have received their second dose Pfizer or Moderna at least 28 days ago.

The health department offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 12 and older by appointment ahead of time. Parent consent is required for minors. Anyone may call 800-432-4121 if they have questions or are not able to find a time or date that works for them and/or their child. Clinics offer client choice of Pfizer, Moderna or J&J unless otherwise noted. Upcoming clinics for appointments only include:

**Friday, October 22**

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W. Garfield Ave., Charlevoix. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

**Monday, October 25**

- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

**Thursday, October 28**

- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W. Garfield Ave., Charlevoix. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

**Friday, October 29**

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- 8:15-11:35 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

The calendar on the website [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org) lists clinics currently scheduled through November 30.

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](#).

**CUTLINE: The rollout for the Pfizer vaccine for 5-11-year olds is depicted in this graphic.**

# Preparing for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines Rollout for 5- to 11-year-olds

- Communication to providers
- Communication to the public
- Inclusive and equitable vaccine distribution
- Utilizing data to monitor progress and guide decision making
- Working to prepare key partners to make vaccine available to 5- to 11-year-olds:
  - Pediatric Provider Offices
  - School-based health programs
  - Pharmacies
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers
  - Local Health Departments
- **Opportunity to co-administer on vaccines!**

