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

### **Vaccination clinics for 5-11 year olds start Friday, November 5**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan will begin to give COVID-19 vaccinations for children 5-11 years old starting this Friday, November 5. Appointments are required and can be made by visiting the [health department COVID-19 vaccination page for 5-11 year olds](#).

Following approval by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, providers across the country and northern Michigan are preparing to provide the Pfizer vaccine for children as young as 5-years-old.

Scientists have conducted clinical trials with about 3,000 children and the FDA has determined that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has met the safety and efficacy standards for authorization in children ages 5 through 15 years. In addition, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has now been FDA-approved for people ages 16 and older. To learn more about the process of developing, authorizing, and approving COVID-19 vaccines [click here](#).

“COVID-19 infection can cause serious illness in children, and that risk far exceeds any potential risk of the vaccine,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Pediatrician and the Medical Director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “I strongly urge parents to consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 years and older as soon as possible. If parents have any concerns or questions about whether the vaccine is right for their child, they should consult with their primary care provider,” Dr. Meyerson added.

Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can:

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others

The Health Department is hosting clinics especially geared toward children 5 to 11 years old. These separate clinics will accommodate children in numerous ways, including clinics outside of school hours, allowing parents to comfort their child by having them sit on their laps and be more intimate, and smaller than clinics held for adults.

A parent/guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18 to a COVID-19 clinic. Please bring an insurance card to the appointment.

*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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To schedule an appointment exclusively for children 5 to 11 years old, [click here](#). To schedule an appointment for anyone 12 and older, [click here](#). 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.

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](#).