



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Social Services

**ROY COOPER** • Governor

**MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH** • Secretary

**SUSAN OSBORNE** • Assistant Secretary for County  
Operations for Human Services

September 16, 2021

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,  
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: Vaccination Guidance**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**  Immediate

**PURPOSE: Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccinations for eligible youth**

Child welfare has the statutory requirement to ensure safety, permanency, and wellbeing of children. Given the protection vaccines provide, it is essential that child welfare workers are informed regarding the use of COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth.

On August 23, 2021, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine received full FDA approval for use in individuals 16 years and older. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine continues to be available under emergency use authorization for use in individuals 12-15 years old and those 12 and over who may be eligible for an additional dose due to certain immunocompromised conditions. To ensure all protocols are followed, attached is the guidance document regarding the COVID-19 vaccination as it pertains to vaccine eligible youth in foster care.

If you have additional questions or would like to discuss specific circumstances, please contact your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Sincerely,

Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of  
Child, Family and Adult Services

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations  
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations  
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency Planning  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention  
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing Services

Attachments:

Child Welfare COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance for Children and Youth in Custody

CWS-36-2021

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409  
[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER