



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: Guidance and Requirements Surrounding Use of Virtual Visits

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

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
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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

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