



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

November 8, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS AND CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance for Children and Youth in the Custody of Local Departments of Social Services

Purpose: COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance Update; Vaccinations for ages 5-11

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

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 November 2, 2021, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine received CDC endorsement by the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is available under emergency use authorization (EUA) for use in individuals 5-15 years old and those 12 and over who may be eligible for an additional dose due to certain immunocompromised conditions. The FDA approved Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination (being marketed as COMIRNATY) is available for individuals 16 years of age and older.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has developed resources to help find a COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/kids/locations> and to help answer questions parents may have about the vaccine <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/kids>.

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 regarding this guidance please contact your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6430 • FAX: 919-715-0168

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Lisa Tucker Cauley, MSW



Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Division of Social Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Susan G. 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

CWS-41-2021

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6430 • FAX: 919-715-0168

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER