

Promotes and provides innovative quality health services, prevention, and education for our communities

281 LaClair Street, Coos Bay, OR 97420 p. 541-266-6700 f. 541-888-8726 TTY Relay 711

November 4, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children between 5 and 11 years of age can now be vaccinated for COVID-19.

The FDA, CDC and Western States Review Board have all approved the use of Pfizer vaccine in this age group. According to the CDC, "COVID-19 cases in children can result in hospitalizations, deaths, MIS-C (inflammatory syndromes) and long-term complications, such as "long COVID". Vaccination, along with other preventative measures, can protect children from COVID-19 using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in adolescents and adults in the United States. Similar to what was seen in adult vaccine trials, vaccination was nearly 91 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 among children aged 5-11 years. In clinical trials, vaccine side effects were mild, and similar to those seen in adults and with other vaccines recommended for children. The most common side effect was a sore arm." You can read more in the CDC Press Release.

"This is great news for Oregon children, parents, and families" said Governor Kate Brown.

"Vaccination is the best tool we have to protect ourselves and our loved ones. ... It is completely normal for parents and kids to have questions about vaccines—I urge you to reach out to your family doctor, health care provider, or pharmacist and get your questions answered today."

The disease severity continues to remain low in the pediatric age group. However, Oregon's pediatric cases report shows that ages 5 to 11 are experiencing the highest number of new cases compared to other age groups under 18 years of age. Oregon Health Authority's <u>Pediatric Report</u> that Oregon families have experienced 3 deaths due to COVID-19 in those under 18 years of age and 58 cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in this age group.

Supplies of pediatric vaccine for ages 5 to 11 are still trickling into our county, it may be as late as next week for appointments to open up at all the locations who will be offering this vaccine. Supplies should build to full availability over the next few weeks. The Pfizer vaccine for this age group is the same vaccine but it is dosed and packaged differently to reflect the reduced dose for this age group. Please call to make an appointment for COVID-19 vaccines through the following providers: Bay Clinic, North Bend Medical Center, Walmart pharmacy, Walgreen's pharmacy, Waterfall Clinic, Coast Community Health Clinic, Coquille Valley Hospital and Coos Health & Wellness. We encourage all families to discuss questions and concerns with their medical providers.



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To find additional information related to vaccines or to book an appointment for vaccines please go to the Coos Health & Wellness website. https://cooshealthandwellness.org/public-health/covid-19-vaccine-information/

Dr. Eric Gleason MS

Deputy Director

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Coos Health & Wellness

Together, inspiring healthier communities

281 LaClair St. Coos Bay, OR 97420

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