



## For immediate release:

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**From:** Public Information Officer Lori Beatley

### **Pfizer Vaccine Approved for 5-11 year olds and Booster Vaccines**

On October 29, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years old, with the ACIP (CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices') voting to approve the vaccine on November 2, 2021. On November 3, 2021, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup completed its review of the federal process and has unanimously concluded that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for children 5 to 11 years of age. This vaccine is voluntary for those who desire to vaccinate their child who is 5 or older.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 in children can result in hospitalization, death, MIS-C (multi-system inflammatory syndrome) and long-term complications, such as "long COVID," in which symptoms can linger for months. The spread of the coronavirus Delta variant resulted in a surge of COVID-19 cases in children throughout the summer. During a 6-week period in late June to mid-August, COVID-19 hospitalizations among children and adolescents increased fivefold. COVID-19 is currently the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in children. Vaccination using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in adolescents and adults in the United States, along with other preventative measures, can protect children from the serious adverse effects of COVID-19.

Plumas County Public Health will be hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics at local PUSD (Plumas Unified School District) elementary schools the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> for this age group. For more information regarding these clinics please go to <https://www.plumascounty.us/2839/COVID-19-Home> or contact your local elementary school. The vaccine is also available at the Public Health Clinic. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 530-283-6330. The vaccine may also be available at local pharmacies and your local healthcare provider. For further information, it may be helpful to discuss vaccinating your child with their pediatrician or primary care provider.

On October 1, the State of California announced that students will be required to be vaccinated for in person learning starting the term following FDA full approval of the vaccine for their grade span (7-12 and k-6). At this time vaccination is voluntary. This requirement which was established by regulation, not legislation, and is subject to exemptions "for both medical reasons and personal beliefs.", which the state is determining the criteria for "medical reasons and personal belief".

#### **Vaccine Boosters**

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines for COVID-19 have also been approved for booster doses.

The California Department of Public Health recommends a booster dose of **Pfizer or Moderna** vaccine if you:

- Received your second dose at least six months ago, and

- o Are 65 or older, or
- o Age 18+ and live in long-term care settings, or
- o Age 18+ and have underlying medical conditions, or
- o Age 18+ and are at increased risk due to social inequity, or
- o Age 18+ and work or live in a high-risk setting

A booster dose of **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine is recommended if you:

- o Received your first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 2 months ago, and
- o Are 18 or older

Those who originally received a Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine can elect to receive a Pfizer or Moderna booster vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccinations including booster vaccines are available at the following locations:

Plumas County Public Health: (530) 283-6330

Eastern Plumas Health Care: (530) 832-6561

Plumas District Hospital: (530) 283-5640

Lassen Drug - Chester, CA (530) 258-2261

RiteAid - Quincy, CA (530) 283-1809

Quincy Pharmacy - Quincy, CA (530) 283-4545

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccination you can go to the county website at

<https://www.plumascounty.us/2839/COVID-19-Home> or CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>