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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact:**

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## **Vaccinators can now give Pfizer vaccine to 5 to 11-year-olds in Wisconsin**

**Eau Claire, WI. November 5, 2021-** The COVID-19 vaccine is now available in Wisconsin for children ages 5 to 11. This Pfizer vaccine requires 2 doses, given 21 days apart, to offer the most protection. We encourage parents to call their family doctor to schedule your child's vaccine. If you do not have a family doctor, you can now search for vaccine providers for this age group at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), by texting your zip code to 438829, or calling 1-800-232-0233.

"Anyone who can get vaccinated, including kids, lowers their chance of getting seriously ill from COVID-19 and spreading it to others," said Lieske Giese, Health Department Director. "Safety is a top priority and there have been several steps in the process to make sure that this vaccine is safe for children. We are so excited that this vaccine is available in our community."

### **Why should I have my child vaccinated against COVID-19?**

The authorization of this COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 is an important step to help protect kids and the people they live with from COVID-19.

- Children who get COVID-19 often still experience long-term symptoms like dizziness, tiredness, or loss of taste or smell for several months. While children and adolescents are typically at lower risk than adults of becoming severely ill or hospitalized from COVID-19, it is still possible. Getting a vaccine decreases this risk further.
- Getting children vaccinated helps protect their friends and family from the spread of the virus. As more people get vaccinated, the spread in our communities and chances of new variants also goes down.
- Children that are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after getting their second dose) do not need to quarantine if they are a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Plan ahead and make a vaccine appointment by the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> so your child can be fully vaccinated before Christmas.

For more information on the vaccine and how COVID-19 impacts children and youth: [COVID-19: Resources for Parents and Guardians page \(WI DHS\)](#)

**Note:** Individuals ages 12+ may still get a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or booster dose at most local vaccinators in addition to the Health Department. These appointments are available at <http://bit.ly/covidvaccine-ec>.

To see who is eligible for COVID-19 booster vaccine, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-dose.htm>

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