

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:
Gina Schemenauer
Public Information Officer, Eau Claire COVID-19 Response gina.schemenauer@co.eau-claire.wi.us, (715) 829-6377

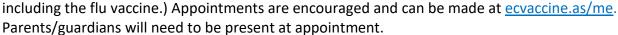
## Health Dept working with partners to get COVID-19 vaccine to kids

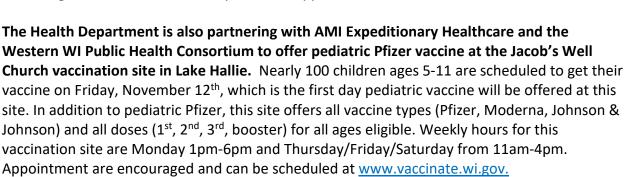
**Eau Claire, WI. November 11, 2021-** With the recent approval of Pfizer for 5–11-year-olds, the Health Department is collaborating with schools, healthcare and pharmacy partners, and others to ensure that parents have reliable information about the COVID-19 vaccine for kids, as well as easy access to vaccine clinics.

"Vaccination can help keep children safe and learning in-school, which is why we're partnering with school districts and vaccine providers in our community to make vaccinations available and

accessible," says Lieske Giese, Health Department Director/Health Officer. Once fully vaccinated for COVID-19, children will not have to be quarantined from school after an exposure to a case of COVID unless they have symptoms. Vaccination provides an opportunity to keep these children in school and relieve many of the challenges facing children, families, and teachers due to children being quarantined.

The Health Department is partnering with the Eau Claire Area School District to offer several vaccine clinics in the upcoming months, as one of the many opportunities in our county. Sherman Elementary will host the first clinic on Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> for 5–11-year old's from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Flu vaccinations are also offered at this clinic for children, ages 6 months+. (Children may safely get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other immunizations,





In addition, the Health Department is partnering with area healthcare providers and pharmacies to be sure that pediatric vaccine is available in these locations. Visit <a href="https://bit.ly/covidvaccine-ec">bit.ly/covidvaccine-ec</a>, <a href="https://vaccines.gov">vaccines.gov</a>, or text your zip code to 438829, to find these community locations.



Medical and public health experts, including the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommend that children and adolescents aged 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect them from contracting and spreading the virus. Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can get COVID-19, get very sick from COVID-19, have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19 and spread COVID-19 to others. As we approach the holiday season, the best way to keep your children safe and healthy is by getting them the COVID-19 vaccine.

We encourage parents to make an informed decision for their family. Call your child's doctor to talk through any questions you may have, or visit these reliable websites to learn more about COVID-19 vaccine and kids.

- COVID-19 Vaccine Checklist for Kids Aged 5 and Up (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- COVID-19: Resources for Parents and Guardians page (WI DHS)
- What should I know about vaccines for children and kids? (Getanswers.org)
- COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens (CDC)

