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### Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine EUA extends approval age to 12 and older

The FDA has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine EUA for those age 12 and older. The Western States Scientific Safety Review Group, including Washington State, approved the vaccine authorization with vaccination eligibility beginning yesterday. The addition of the lower age range is another opportunity for our community providers to help fight COVID-19 by providing vaccine to most middle school students and all high school students. Not only will our school environments be safer for students and staff, but our 15-19 year old age range has the highest case rate per 100K people in our counties. Vaccinating our youth will decrease COVID-19 spread throughout our community and protect those with whom they contact.

With this change, the Washington State Department of Health mass vaccination site at the Benton County Fairgrounds, is the main provider of vaccine to this age group as they continue to administer mostly Pfizer. Other providers in the area currently ordering Pfizer vaccine are pharmacies. Traditionally, pharmacy vaccine providers have not given vaccine to minors, however, we have heard many are with the COVID-19 vaccine. The mass vaccination sites across the state were never meant to be a permanent presence in our communities. As we look towards a time when the site will demobilize, we need more providers than just our pharmacy partners. **Benton-Franklin Health District is looking to our area medical provider offices, including our childhood vaccine providers, to provide COVID-19 vaccine to meet the community need.**

As with all other childhood vaccines, we can anticipate that COVID-19 vaccination will be with us for the foreseeable future. As requirements have eased from the state and storage of the vaccines have become easier, now is the time for those who provide other childhood immunizations to provide COVID-19 vaccine as well. In summary, here are some of the ways providing COVID-19 vaccine has become easier:

- Smaller orders of vaccine are now allowed
- Ordering has gotten easier as local health jurisdictions have become the vaccine hub
- The 95% vaccine use requirement has been removed by the state and replaced with a storage timeline of two weeks
- The Pfizer vaccine can be stored in a regular vaccine freezer for this two week time frame and in a vaccine fridge for up to 120 hours
- The Department of Health (DOH) has announced a focus on vaccine convenience instead of waste reduction allowing providers to have some vaccine waste in order to vaccinate more individuals

We are here to help you navigate any questions you may have regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have any questions, please contact Miriam Chaviano at (509) 460-4200 or [miriamc@bfhd.wa.gov](mailto:miriamc@bfhd.wa.gov). Additional information on provider registration and vaccine information for providers can be found below.

- Information for providers of COVID-19 Vaccination Program Enrollment can be found [here](#).
- To register, fill out this survey: [Enrollment Inquiry Form \(wa.gov\)](#).
- [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Health Care Professionals](#).

Fact Sheets for recipients:

- [COVID-19 Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [COVID-19 Moderna Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)
- [COVID-19 Janssen Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients](#)

Vaccine Product and Storage/Handling Information:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine product information](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Summarypdf icon](#)
  
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine product information](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Summarypdf icon](#)
  
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine product information](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Summarypdf icon](#)