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### **PFIZER PEDIATRIC DOSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER THROUGH BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT OR WASHINGTON DEPT. OF HEALTH**

*“A recent survey shows that 34% of guardians with children ages 5-11 report that they intend to get their child vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available.”*

***In the above survey, 60% of guardians also stated that they prefer to get their child vaccinated at their doctors office.***

School age children (ages 5-14) have been among the top three age groups diagnosed with COVID-19 since mid September of this year. The majority of spread in school age groups appear to be community spread within families and from activities and events occurring outside of the classroom. There are currently no mass vaccination events planned for children in Benton and Franklin counties. Families will be contacting their primary care providers who provide their routine childhood immunizations for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Full authorization to vaccinate youth 5-11 could occur as early as November 3, 2021. Pfizer pediatric doses are available to order through Washington Department of Health with a minimum of 300 doses or through Benton Franklin Health District (BFHD) for clinics or providers that want to order smaller quantities of vaccine.

Did you know that BFHD can provide:

- onsite technical assistance
- flexible ordering to meet clinic needs, in quantities of 5 vials or more

Pfizer pediatric vaccine (orange cap) can be safely stored in the refrigerator for 10 weeks; Pfizer adult/adolescent vaccine (purple cap) can be stored in the refrigerator for 30 days. Ultra cold freezers are not required.

#### **Here is how to prepare**

1. Make sure you have enough of the current vaccine on hand. This will help you vaccinate families together, as any children ages 12-17 and any adults still need the current vaccine type and dosage. Connect with BFHD staff listed above if you need smaller quantities than can be ordered from WA Department of Health.
2. The pediatric vaccines will come in a different vial, so prepare space in your refrigerator to store them and you'll be ready to order as soon as they're available. Also prepare storage for pediatric diluent as it is different from 12 and up diluent.

3. Establish methods to ensure your staff will provide correct vaccine and dosage, as the vaccine is not the same as the one for ages 12 and up and needs dilution.
4. Read through DOH's [materials on vaccinating youth](#). DOH will update this page with the new age range once it's authorized, but in the meantime there are other tools on that page that will help you navigate vaccinating minors, such as myocarditis information, Q&A on vaccinating children, handling consent, and more.
5. [Order free stickers and buttons](#) to give out to your patients.
6. Sign up for the Power of Providers initiative at [www.doh.wa.gov/POP](http://www.doh.wa.gov/POP). This will give you free swag, tools to have confident vaccine conversations with your patients, a specialized toolkit, and more.
7. Use your vaccine reminder devices/systems to notify parents/guardians of any patients you have between ages 5 and 11 that the vaccine is now available. Since COVID-19 vaccines can be given with influenza and all childhood vaccines, it's also a great opportunity to get children caught up and protected against all vaccine preventable diseases. Prepare to send once you have pediatric vaccine in stock.
8. Begin pre-booking appointments!

We are excited that soon, even more people in Washington can be protected by safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination. This will bring peace of mind to parents, families, school staff, and you as a provider, knowing you've given the kids a huge boost in fighting off this disease. Thank you for all you've done for those age 12 and up in this state, and we know you'll continue this great work with our younger community members as well.