

**Media Inquiries:**

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Karen Ayala, M.P.H.  
Executive Director

Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

November 3, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DuPage County Health Department to Prioritize Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination**

**DuPage County**— Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice’s (ACIP) recommendation for the use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 through 11 years of age. This follows the FDA’s authorization last Friday of the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in children 5 through 11 years of age. The authorization was based on the FDA’s thorough and transparent evaluation of the data that included input from independent advisory committee experts who overwhelmingly voted in favor of making the vaccine available to children in this age group.

DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) expects the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine to be available through a robust provider network in many locations throughout DuPage County. DCHD has been working with healthcare providers, schools, and other organizations to ensure a broad network of access for children to be vaccinated against COVID-19. DCHD also partnered with the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians to encourage all pediatricians and family medicine providers in DuPage to become COVID-19 vaccine providers and to ensure the availability of COVID-19 vaccine for their patients.

“We have been planning for the availability of the vaccine for younger children for months,” shared DCHD Executive Director Karen Ayala. “Protecting our children from severe outcomes associated with COVID-19 infection and reducing community transmission of COVID-19 are important steps in addressing the serious impacts this pandemic has had on our community.

**-More-**



111 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

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Because the community has such a wide network and access to the COVID-19 vaccine for adults, and we have now reached our goal of fully vaccinating at least 80% of DuPage County residents over the age of 12 who have previously been eligible, we will shift our priority to getting the 5-11 year old population vaccinated,” said Ayala.

Because of this shift, DCHD’s Community Vaccination Clinic at the DuPage County Fairgrounds will close on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. “The decision to close the Community Vaccination Clinic was made because we recognize this would not be the best care setting to meet the unique needs of the 5–11 year-old population,” said Director Ayala.

DCHD will begin offering the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> at multiple DCHD Public Health Center locations. Residents seeking an appointment sooner may be able to locate one closest to their home using the options below.

DCHD recommends the following immediate actions for anyone interested in pediatric COVID-19 vaccination:

- 1) Check with your child’s pediatrician or healthcare provider.
- 2) Check with a local retail pharmacy.
- 3) Check with your child’s school to see if they are hosting a clinic.
- 4) Register with DCHD [Vaccine Registration & Scheduling](#). Those who register will receive information via email about scheduling an appointment as soon as appointments are available.
- 5) Visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) to find a provider near you.

More information about COVID-19 vaccines for children can be found by visiting [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens | CDC](#).

**-More-**

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**STAY SAFE  
DUPAGE**



WEAR  
A MASK



WATCH  
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH  
YOUR HANDS



GET  
VACCINATED

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For more information on COVID-19 in DuPage County, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19). Anyone age 12 years or older is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and can find an appointment by going to [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov). No-cost testing remains available. For more information on testing locations visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19testing](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19testing).

For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois' response and guidance, call 1-800-880-3931 or email [DPH.SICK.@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK.@ILLINOIS.GOV).

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