



150 YEARS  
OF ADVANCING  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of  
Early Education and Care

November 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The CDC authorized the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for use in children ages 5-11 on November 2. We'd like to provide you with current information and resources on vaccination and now that vaccination is approved for this younger age group, **we encourage you to have your child vaccinated** to protect themselves, your family, and the community.

While COVID-19 is generally less serious for school-age children than for older adults, children can become infected, and some may get very sick or suffer serious complications. Children can spread COVID-19 to others. Fortunately, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for individuals ages 12 and up and is currently under review for a recommendation for children ages 5 to 11. The COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be safe and effective against infection, serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Over 70% of Massachusetts' youth ages 12 to 17 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Getting your child vaccinated will help limit COVID-19 spread in the community, and it can help keep your child stay in their program.

Please speak to your child's doctor about their plans to administer the vaccine once it is made available and raise any questions or concerns you have about the vaccine and your child. You can also find more information on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health webpage: [COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 5-11](#)

There are hundreds of vaccination sites across the state that have indicated willingness to vaccinate children 5 to 11. Many accept walk-in appointments, including pharmacies, grocery chains, and community health centers. Information on Massachusetts Covid-19 initiatives, vaccination sites, and safety information, and helpful resources are all available at [www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine).

- You can find a vaccination site near you by visiting <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>
- If you can't find a location that works for you here, [please use a mobile clinic option](#).
- Contact your [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) or **local Board of Health** for more information.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The COVID vaccine is free for all, and no ID or insurance is needed to be vaccinated. You can get vaccinated even if you are undocumented. Getting a vaccine will not impact you or your family's immigration status.** The Public Charge rule does NOT apply to getting the vaccine.

Getting your family vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones. We appreciate your help to keep all our students, teachers, staff, and volunteers, as well as our community, safe and healthy this fall and all year long.

Sincerely,

Margret R. Cooke  
Acting Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Samantha Aigner-Treworgy  
Commissioner  
Department of Early Education and Care