

May 11, 2021

Re: Vaccination access for students age 12+

Dear school superintendent or senior administrator,

As you may be aware, the FDA and CDC are expected to expand Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine authorization for use in youth ages 12 and above as early as later this week. To consider vaccination, many families will require information and encouragement from community organizations they know. As trusted community leaders, we are calling on you to help inform students and families about vaccination options for young people.

We strongly encourage the District to host a vaccination event at one of your schools before the end of the school year to visibly support vaccination and leverage the school community to improve vaccine uptake. To do this, we suggest you partner with a community vaccine provider such as:

- **Local Health Department (LHD):** Your LHD may be able to support you in hosting a vaccination event or provide you with information on other community vaccination events for youth and families. You can check your LHD website or [call/email your LHD administrator](#).
- **Pharmacies:** You can reach out to a local pharmacy to request a school-based vaccination event.
 - Costco: Beth Arnold – Betharnold@costco.com
 - CVS: <https://cvshealth.com/covid-19/return-ready/vaccination>
 - Hy-Vee: Justin Manning - jmanning@hy-vee.com
 - Jewel-Osco: Jay Highland - Jay.Highland@jewelosco.com
 - Walgreens: Chelsi McManus - Chelsi.McManus@walgreens.com / 224-256-9037
 - Walmart: Carrie Wiggins – Carrie.wiggins@walmart.com / 618-499-6231
 - Additional pharmacies can be found on the [State](#) or [CDC](#) website if your preferred location is not listed above.
- **Hospitals:** Many Illinois hospitals have vaccine and may be able to support on-site events.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs):** FQHCs are community-based care providers that provide primary care services in underserved areas. You can [contact your local FQHC](#) to request an on-site vaccination event.

If you are unable to develop a partnership at the local level to host a school clinic, but would like to do so, please contact Cody.Mcsellers-Mccray@Illinois.gov at the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Department may be able to work with you to plan an event with a vendor contracted by the state or connect you with another available community partner. Please also contact Cody with any other questions related to COVID-19 vaccination for youth.

If you chose not to conduct an on-site clinic, please send the attached letter from ISBE to students and families on where to get vaccinated, or feel free to use or adapt the letter to send on behalf of the District. We have also attached a one-pager for school staff on how to talk about the vaccine. You should also expect to receive an FAQ on COVID Vaccine for Young People next week.

We hope that the coming months will be healthy ones, allowing students, teachers, and families to enjoy the down time of the summer months and prepares schools for a year ahead that ensures students are able to focus on what's most important – learning.

We are grateful for your continued support to keep your schools and communities safe.