



## ***DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CDC Recommends COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot for Children Age 5-11**

Midland County Department of Public Health will begin giving COVID-19 Vaccine Booster shots to children age 5-11 on Tuesday, May 24 from 10am to 4:30pm at the Health Dept. clinic on second floor of the County Services Building at 220 W. Ellsworth Street. We also continue to offer 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Booster doses for all that are eligible.

Following Thursday's meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP), CDC is expanding eligibility of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to everyone 5 years of age and older. CDC now recommends that children age 5 through 11 years receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. This booster, which FDA has authorized, would be a third dose for healthy children and a fourth dose for children who are immunocompromised. The dose is child-sized at 1/3 the size of the adult vaccine, and it has shown to be nearly 91% effective during clinical trials.

Since the pandemic began, more than 4.8 million children age 5 through 11 have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 15,000 have been hospitalized and, tragically, over 180 have died. As cases increase across the country, a booster dose will safely help restore and enhance protection against severe disease. Waning antibody levels have been seen in children and adults after initial COVID vaccine series. Pfizer says clinical trial data shows the booster raised omicron-fighting antibodies by 36-fold in children, with no new safety issues.

Many children age 5-11 haven't been vaccinated at all. CDC says only 35% have gotten one dose and only 28% have had both initial doses.

The Health Dept. encourages county residents to take the following preventive measures to avoid COVID infection and illness: Get up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccine; Have masks and over-the-counter tests on hand; Test if you have symptoms or become exposed to someone with COVID-19; Stay home when sick; Practice good hygiene, cover your cough, and wash hands frequently; and ask your doctor about therapeutics (antibodies and antivirals). High quality masks, such as N-95's and KN-95's, help reduce transmission in crowded indoor spaces. Free KN-95s are available at the Health Dept. and can be picked up during regular business hours.

Contact the Midland County Dept. of Public Health with any questions at [MCDPH@co.midland.mi.us](mailto:MCDPH@co.midland.mi.us) or 989-832-6380. Make your appointment online: [www.co.midland.mi.us/healthdepartment](http://www.co.midland.mi.us/healthdepartment) and **click** 'COVID-19 Vaccination Information' graphic.