

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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11.9.21

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Pierce County Public Health and Local Doctor Support Recommendation for Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccinations of Children 5-11 Years Old

Late last week the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced its support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that children 5-11 years old receive the 2-dose pediatric version of the Pfizer vaccine (1/3 of the dose of the adult vaccine). Pierce County Public Health (PCPH) and local pediatric doctors also support this recommendation.

Dr. Amber Morgan, a pediatrician based in River Falls, says there are many really good reasons why parents should get COVID-19 vaccine for their children. "COVID-19 is among the top 10 causes of death for children in this age group. Now, we have the opportunity to move COVID-19 off that list. The Pfizer vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in children. I am recommending the Pfizer vaccine for my patients, and it is what I am doing for my own children," said Dr. Morgan.

About 8,300 children in this age group have been hospitalized due to COVID-19 nationally. About 1/3 of children in this age group who were hospitalized due to COVID-19 had no underlying health conditions.

The vaccine is recommended for children who've had a previous COVID-19 infection because natural immunity is highly variable, and the risk of reinfection after natural infection is 2 - 5 times higher than the risk of reinfection with vaccines."

To help answer other questions many parents have, PCPH developed a [FAQ document](#) with some of the most common parent concerns.

There are several options available locally to get your child vaccinated against COVID-19:

- Contact your pediatrician, family doctor and/or pharmacist about the pediatric Pfizer vaccine.
- Freeman Drug in River Falls will offer the pediatric Pfizer vaccine this month:
<https://freemandrug.as.me/schedule.php>
- Pierce County will also offer the pediatric Pfizer on November 23rd in Ellsworth. Appointments will be available starting Friday the 12th on the Pierce County website (<https://piercecountycovid19vaccine.as.me/schedule.php>) and via phone at 715-273-6755.
- Other vaccination sites are listed on <https://vaccinate.wi.gov/en-US/>

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