



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CDC STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF PEDIATRIC COVID VACCINATION Feds roll out new vaccination rules for American workers

CUMBERLAND, MD – Earlier this week, the CDC formally authorized the use of pediatric doses of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages five to eleven. The availability of pediatric doses of COVID vaccine is a major step forward in combatting the spread of COVID and protecting children.

According to the CDC, although children are at lower risk of severe illness from COVID-19 they are still susceptible to infection with the virus that causes COVID and can spread COVID to others. Some children, particularly those with underlying medical conditions, can become severely ill if they contract COVID-19 and have both short and long-term health complications as a result. Rare cases of serious COVID-19 complications have occurred, such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) – a condition where different body parts become inflamed including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

Pfizer 5-11 COVID vaccine is available at a variety of locations in Allegheny County. In addition to the previously-announced school-based clinics being conducted by Allegheny County Health Department and Allegheny County Public Schools, vaccine is also available at area pediatricians' offices and some local pharmacies.

On Thursday, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced new vaccination rules covering more than 100 million American workers. Regulations now require that companies with 100 or more employees ensure that their workers are either fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 4 or that they test negative for COVID weekly. Employers must allow paid time off for employees to get the vaccine, but are not required to pay for or provide testing to workers who decline the vaccine. Unvaccinated workers must wear face coverings while on the job.

Federal rules for health care workers are more stringent, with the new regulations requiring mandatory vaccination for all health care workers in facilities funded through Medicare or Medicaid by January 4, with no option for weekly COVID testing in lieu of vaccination. This applies to both clinical and non-clinical workers.

The Allegheny County Health Department continues to offer Pfizer and Moderna vaccines the Allegheny County Fairgrounds, including first, second, and booster doses. Clinics are posted as they are scheduled on the health department's website (health.maryland.gov/allegany) and Facebook page ([AlleghenyHlthMD](https://www.facebook.com/AlleghenyHlthMD)).

Drive-thru COVID testing continues to be offered at the fairgrounds on Mondays from 2 to 7 p.m. and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Allegheny County COVID-19 Case and Vaccination Statistics as of November 4:

- New COVID Cases: 49 (cumulative total 9,912)
- Cases Per 100,000 Population: 25.56 (Maryland: 11.34)
- Additional Deaths: 2 (cumulative total 255)
- Positivity Rate: 5.53% (Maryland: 2.92%)

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