



Public Information Release

COVID-19 Vaccine for Children

October 12, 2021

At the beginning of October Pfizer submitted a request to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) seeking Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for their COVID-19 vaccine to be given to children age five to eleven. According to Madison County Health Commissioner Chris Cook, this is another stunning advancement in medicine and the battle against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease. "Our younger kids remain the most vulnerable to COVID-19 since they have not been able to get vaccinated yet. Authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for this age group will be another huge step forward," Cook says. The FDA's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has scheduled a meeting for October 26. At this meeting ACIP will consider all of the vaccine data and likely recommend authorization of the vaccine and provide specifics on how much vaccine to administer to this younger age group based on scientific studies. The CDC will then consider the recommendations from ACIP and FDA. Following this, the Ohio Department of Health will review all of the recommendations and pass guidance to local health departments and other healthcare providers in the state. It is likely two doses of Pfizer vaccine spaced 21 days apart will be recommended. According to studies and trials the dose for this younger age group will most likely be one-third of the adult dose.

According to the Health Commissioner, there are approximately 3,000 children in this new age group in Madison County who would become eligible for vaccine. Cook explains that he expects about 1,000 of these children to be vaccinated rather quickly. "Approximately 37% of our children age twelve to nineteen are currently vaccinated against COVID-19 in Madison County. If we apply the same percentage to the five to eleven age range, we will have 1,110 children (parents) who will seek vaccination. But I hope it's far more than that," Cook notes. He estimates that the earliest timeline will allow Madison County Public Health (MCPH) to begin offering vaccine to kids age five to eleven around October 28. But this depends on the authorization process. MCPH is currently offering COVID-19 vaccine by appointment every Monday and Friday from 9am to 4:30pm and every Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 6:30pm. "Our plan right now is to maintain these weekday clinics and hold at least one Saturday clinic in November. If demand exceeds our current capacity, we have plans for a larger vaccination site," Cook says. MCPH is also offering to hold vaccine clinics at schools.

In anticipation of the Pfizer vaccine being authorized, parents can pre-book an appointment now for anytime on or after October 28. Cook says that if the FDA does not authorize the vaccine before the child's appointment date, the appointment will be cancelled and parents can immediately reschedule online. Preparing for your child to get a COVID-19 vaccine is a simple two-step process: book an appointment then complete the registration form online at covidshot.madisonph.org. "COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and save lives. For parents of younger children, this is exciting. These kids could get their first dose of vaccine before Halloween," Cook says.

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