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Whiteside County Health Department  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Whiteside County Health Department to Begin Pediatric (age 5-11) Vaccinations Friday**

November 3, 2021 – Following the Federal Drug Administration’s (FDA) authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for for [Emergency Use in children age 5 through 11 on October 29th](#) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [recommendations for use issued on November 2nd](#), the Whiteside County Health Department (WCHD) will begin administering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which has been approved for children age 5 through 11 years of age, this Friday by appointment only. Children will still require 2 of the lower, age appropriate doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, at least 21 days apart, before being considered fully vaccinated.

Individuals can schedule an appointment, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) between 8:30am and 4:00pm, online at <https://events.juvar.com/IL-IDPH/530a9d8f-5238-4561-bc90-7857ddbbee861/>, by visiting [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) and finding the Whiteside County Health Department’s listing by searching for Pfizer vaccine, by calling the National COVID-19 vaccination assistance hotline at 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489) or on WCHD social media.

As with all vaccinations among individuals under 18, a guardian will need to be present to authorize vaccine administration. To help facilitate this, WCHD will be offering additional Pediatric ONLY vaccine appointments on Tuesdays from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. Individuals can sign up through the registration link above, through [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov), or through links on our social media and choose the later times.

[CDC reminds individuals](#) that during a 6-week period in late June to mid-August, COVID-19 hospitalizations among children and adolescents [increased fivefold](#) and that vaccination along with other preventative measures, can help reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalizations, or developing long term COVID-19 complications. COVID-19 vaccines have undergone – and will continue to undergo – the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Getting children vaccinated can help protect them against COVID-19, as well as reduce disruptions to in-person learning and activities by helping curb community transmission.

We anticipate the Pediatric vaccination rollout to mirror previous vaccine rollouts. Initially, there may be fewer providers and appointments available, however we expect an increase in availability and providers in the coming weeks. Individuals should routinely check [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) and WCHD social media to find vaccine options near them and speak with their child’s primary care provider if they have questions or concerns.

For more information on CDC’s recommendations for vaccination among children and teens please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>

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