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Press Release

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COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Ages 5-11

The CDC now recommends that everyone ages five and older get a COVID-19 vaccine. This update came after the Pfizer vaccine underwent clinical trials with an age group of 5-11 year old children and met the safety and efficacy standards for authorization of use, according to the CDC. Previously, only children ages 12-17 were eligible for a vaccine. The new approval includes age appropriate dosing of the Pfizer vaccine that will offer protection against severe illness or death from the COVID-19 virus.

Children are not immune from the severe effects of COVID-19, and common underlying conditions like asthma and obesity can put kids at an even greater risk of severe illness. From July 1 to October 26, there were more than 45,200 pediatric cases and more than 300 child hospitalizations related to COVID-19 in Minnesota. Serious cases can even occur in healthy children. Roughly 25% of COVID-19 pediatric deaths nationally have occurred in healthy children.

COVID-19 vaccines are available free of charge to anyone who is eligible. Our local clinics, pharmacies, and public health office are offering appointments, which will now include options for children ages 5-11. Your medical provider can answer any questions you may have about the risks and benefits of vaccinating your younger children.

Brown County Public Health continues to offer weekly vaccination clinics and will offer pediatric vaccines during those times. For clinic registration, visit www.co.brown.mn.us/covidvaccine or call their office at 507-233-6820.

More information about the approval of the Pfizer Vaccine for ages 5-11, visit the CDC website.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1102-PediatricCOVID-19Vaccine.html>

In addition to the webpage, two new videos were created featuring Minnesota pediatricians sharing information about the COVID-19 vaccine for children and why it is important to get kids vaccinated;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gw6xP3ifT3g>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOlRNlvEiMw&list=PLKYV5259WcZ0dQP_iGaPzP_kPJ3G3Dyd7u&index=3