



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Melissa Morin, Public Information Officer
Whatcom County Health Department
(360) 594-2504
Health-PIO@co.whatcom.wa.us

Health Department Hosts Nov. 5 COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for 5- to 11-Year-Olds Health Officials Urge Patience While Pediatric Supply Is Limited

BELLINGHAM, WA -- With the recent federal and state authorization of a COVID-19 vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds, Whatcom County Health Department is announcing a clinic specifically for this age group. The clinic will be on Friday, Nov. 5 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Old Lynden Middle School Cafeteria, 516 Main St, Lynden, WA. The clinic is open to all Whatcom County residents between the ages of 5 and 11.

This pediatric clinic will operate adjacent to a previously scheduled clinic with adult COVID-19 vaccine doses at the same location and will not replace the existing clinic. There are a limited number of appointments and pre-registration is **required**. People may register online at prepmo.doh.wa.gov after noon on Thursday, Nov 4; a direct link will be available on the Health Department website, whatcomcounty.us/covidvaccine. Walk-ins will not be accepted. People without a computer or who need language assistance may call 360-778-6075 to make an appointment. Language assistance will be available at the clinic.

"There are just under 18,000 children in Whatcom County who are now eligible for vaccination, and we know many parents are eager to have their children vaccinated," said Erika Lautenbach, director of the Health Department. "While vaccine providers in our county are already stretched with giving booster doses and flu shots, the Health Department had enough space at an existing clinic to also offer doses for kids. I appreciate our nursing team for their planning and ability to provide our community with these vaccines so quickly."

"Please remember that this is the first week that pediatric doses are available. This clinic will not be the only opportunity for 5- to 11-year-olds to get immunized against COVID-19," Lautenbach added. "You may need to wait a few weeks to get a vaccine appointment with your preferred provider. We expect initial demand to be high, so we appreciate your patience as more vaccine providers are approved for this age group and the vaccine supply specific to 5- to 11-year olds increases."

Early opportunities for getting the pediatric vaccine will be limited, due to both tight supply and a smaller number of providers who are able to vaccinate this age group. Pediatric doses are one-third the dosage of the teen/adult vaccine; they are not interchangeable. The pediatric supply is allocated to providers on a weekly basis while production ramps up.

There are two other confirmed vaccine providers in Whatcom County who will begin offering the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine within the next few days. In addition to limited appointments throughout the week, PeaceHealth is planning two Saturday pediatric-only clinics, Nov. 13 and 20, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at 4545 Cordata Parkway, Bellingham. Appointments are required and must be made by telephone; call 1-833-375-0285 to make an appointment. Nooksack Valley Drug will also have pediatric vaccines; visit nooksackvalleydrug.com to make an appointment. Other clinics will be listed at whatcomcounty.us/covidvaccine as they are scheduled. To find pediatric doses through Vaccine Locator, search for a fourth vaccine type, "Pfizer Ped;" visit vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov.

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