



Good morning School Leaders,

As you may already know, Pfizer has submitted its COVID-19 vaccine data to the FDA for ages 5-11. The Advisory Committee for the FDA met on October 26th and voted in favor of the safety and efficacy of vaccines for this age group. The FDA issued the formal Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) on October 29th.

The immediate next step is for The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) for the CDC to meet on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to do another thorough review of vaccine safety and efficacy. This may result in recommendation for the vaccine for this age group. Although we do not have a date or certainty of authorization or recommendation, it is important to vaccination planning efforts to prepare for potential upcoming demand.

We are asking North Carolina schools to begin thinking about what it might look to provide pediatric vaccine support in your counties and promote access for families and their children. Additionally, NC DHHS is particularly interested in if you are already planning on partnering with a vaccine provider to support or host vaccination efforts. Your support will help ensure we are as prepared as possible when the children's vaccine is available.

Please take the time to fill out the **brief pediatric vaccination planning survey** [HERE](#). The survey results will help us gauge your interest, general capacity, and readiness to handle this upcoming effort.

#### Next Steps:

1. **Take the survey linked above** and consider what it will take to deploy a vaccine program in your particular school or area (i.e., school nurse programs, pop-up vaccine days in schools, communicating pop-up/max vaccine locations etc.)
2. Next week, **we will provide you with a complete list of pediatric vaccine providers who will have access to pediatric vaccine**. We are asking schools to consider coordinating with vaccine providers based on their unique needs and location, this may be a Local Health Department, pharmacy, health system, family medicine or pediatric provider etc.
3. NC DHHS will be analyzing survey results to identify additional opportunities as well as pediatric vaccination gaps across the state to further inform planning.

Thank you for your support in fighting COVID-19!

A handwritten signature in pink ink that reads "E. Cuervo Tilson".

Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, MD, MPH  
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