

**American Indian Health Commission for Washington State  
Tribal Urban Indian Health Immunizations Coalition**

**IMPORTANT PARENT/GUARDIAN UPDATE**

Children ages 12 years+, and older, can now get vaccinated against COVID-19

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Children who are 12 and older can now get the COVID-19 vaccination to protect them from getting the coronavirus. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was approved by the federal government on May 12, 2021. Additional review was conducted by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup (WSSSRW) and approved the Pfizer vaccine for 12 and older in Washington state.<sup>1</sup>



**What parents need to know about Pfizer:**

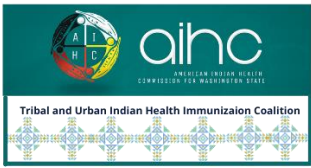
- **Children ages 12-17 can only get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The other two vaccines in the U.S. are only available for ages 18 and older.**
- **The Pfizer vaccine is given in two doses, spaced at least three weeks apart.**
- **Check with the vaccination site on how you will need to provide consent for vaccinating a minor.**
- **Follow the vaccination site rules for protecting yourself and others.**
  - **In preparation for school be sure to contact your child's provider about scheduling COVID-19, other vaccinations, and wellness visits.**
  - **The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective in adolescents 12 and up. Just like adults, children may experience some common side effects for 1 to 3 days after vaccination, including sore arm, tiredness, or headache.**

*Source: The Washington State Department of Health DOH 820-178 5.2021*

The **American Indian Health Commission Tribal and Urban Indian Health Immunization Coalition** recommend contacting your clinic. Your health provider can provide you the best information to prepare for your child's routine and COVID-19 immunizations.

**Get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible for protection from the potential of getting sick from the coronavirus, lessen the chances of uncomfortable or serious symptoms, reduce the likelihood that you will experience lengthy hospitalizations, and reduce the possibility of death.**

***Let's take action by Pulling Together to Protect  
the Health and Wellness of our Tribes and Communities***



## American Indian Health Commission for Washington State Tribal Urban Indian Health Immunizations Coalition

---

### **Resources:**

#### **WSSSRW west coast additional safety review and approval provided to:**

***Governors of California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington State:*** • Governor Gavin Newsom, California • Governor Steve Sisolak, Nevada • Governor Kate Brown, Oregon • Governor Jay Inslee, Washington

#### **WSSSRW west coast additional safety review and approval by:**

***Washington Members:*** • John Dunn, MD, MPH, Kaiser Permanente Washington • Edgar K. Marcuse, MD, MPH, University of Washington School of Medicine

***Oregon Members:*** • Laura Byerly, MD, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center • Louis J. Picker, MD, OHSU Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute

***California Members:*** • Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH, California Department of Public Health

---

<sup>1</sup> Arthur Reingold, MD, Chair, UC Berkeley School of Public Health of the WSSSRW provided confirmation from the workgroup of completed review and approval to the governors of California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington

[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/GovernorsStatementWesternStatesScientificSafetyReviewWorkgroup12-15YOMay122021FINAL.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/GovernorsStatementWesternStatesScientificSafetyReviewWorkgroup12-15YOMay122021FINAL.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)