



For Immediate Release:

November 3, 2021

Media Contact:

Lisa Cox, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Lisa.Cox@health.mo.gov

Children age 5-11 now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination in Missouri

***More than 533,000 of Missouri's population includes children age 5-11 who will
now be eligible for vaccination***

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has [adopted](#) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendation for children ages 5-11 to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC's recommendation, [announced yesterday](#), was made based on an in-depth review of available safety, immunogenicity and efficacy data. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) [expanded the emergency use authorization](#) for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children on October 29.

Previously, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was authorized for use in individuals age 12 and older. The vaccine for children age 5-11 is a smaller dose (10 µg), which is a third of the dosage for individuals 12 years and older (30 µg). The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is administered as a series of two doses, 3 weeks apart, for all eligible individuals.

"As a parent myself, I understand the concerns about vaccinating their young children," said Donald Kauerauf, DHSS Director. "It is important to make an informed decision based on factual, scientific information, not what is available in a social media feed. I highly encourage parents to discuss their child's vaccination with their pediatrician or trusted medical professional."

In clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was found to be more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 in children age 5-11. Vaccine side effects were mild and similar to those seen in adults and with other vaccines recommended for children. These are normal signs that their body is building protection, but they should go away in a few days. The most common side effect was a sore arm.

"While it is less common for a child to become severely ill or need hospitalization due to COVID-19, that risk certainly does exist, which became more evident during the recent Delta variant

