

MEMORANDUM

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

TO: All CPS Conservatorship Staff

FROM: Deneen Dryden, Associate Commissioner
For CPS

SUBJECT: Guidance Regarding Covid-19 Vaccines
Adolescents ages 12 to 15 years now eligible

DATE: May 14, 2021



As of Wednesday, May 12, 2021, **every Texan aged 12 and older is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, including youth in conservatorship.** Vaccine supply has improved, and more will be delivered to providers each week. It is possible that local jurisdictions may still have prioritized populations such as older adults and those with underlying medical conditions.

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Safety has been a top priority while federal partners worked to make the COVID-19 vaccines available. The COVID vaccine is recommended for anyone who is eligible to receive it. Unlike other routine vaccines, the COVID vaccine is currently only authorized by the FDA for emergency use, which means getting it is voluntary and the youth should agree (if able) in addition to the medical consentor.

At this time, only the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for people ages 12 to 17, and it is the same vaccine already widely available across the state for use in adults. Youth and caregivers should contact providers in their area to ensure they are offering the Pfizer vaccine before making an appointment or attending a walk-up vaccine clinic. Primary care providers may soon be administering the vaccine in their offices so caregivers should check with a youth's medical provider to see if that is an option. Otherwise, tools for locating vaccine providers are available at covidvaccine.texas.gov or vacunacovid.texas.gov. Remember, the ability to get a vaccine soon will depend on vaccine availability at the vaccine provider facility. Please call ahead to the

provider as an appointment may be necessary. The vaccine administration will be covered under a youth's STAR Health Medicaid coverage and STAR Health can also assist in finding a location. Do not show up at a vaccine hub, medical provider's office or pharmacy without first signing up or checking the provider's instructions for scheduling.

Additional resources:

STAR Health Member Services: 1-866-912-6283

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information/DSHS](#)

[CDC - Vaccine Safety](#)