

Dear Parents and Families,

Earlier this week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) took the important step of approving the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages five to 11. This is incredible news, as now nearly all Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students are eligible to receive the vaccine — making our schools even safer teaching and learning environments for staff, students, and families. To ensure all eligible students have the opportunity to receive the vaccine as quickly as possible, **CPS schools will be closed on Friday, November 12 for Vaccination Awareness Day.**

Please note: [CPS School-Based Health Centers](#) will be open for existing appointments only. Scheduled sporting events will **not** be canceled.

**Vaccination Awareness Day on Friday, November 12 is an opportunity for parents and guardians to take their children five years of age and older to get vaccinated at their pediatrician's office, at a healthcare provider, or at a CPS school-based site or community vaccination event.**

**Here are a number of ways to get vaccinated on November 12:**

- Visit [vaccines.gov/search](https://www.vaccines.gov/search), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find an appointment near you.
- **Family health care providers**—CPS recommends families first reach out to their pediatrician or family medical provider to see if appointments are available.
- **Local pharmacies**—Across the city, many pharmacy locations already have vaccines and more will receive doses in the coming weeks. Each has their own registration.
  - Walgreens: [Register online](#) or call your local Walgreens or 1-800-WALGREENS (1-800-925-4733)
  - CVS: [Register online](#) or call your local CVS or 1-800-679-9691
  - Mariano's: [Register online](#)
  - Walmart: Call 833-886-0023, Option 1
  - Chicago Costco Pharmacies: [Register online](#) for an appointment or call a pharmacy directly
- Select **children's hospitals** will host pediatric vaccine events—check hospital websites for dates and more information.
- **One of CPS' four regional vaccination clinics:**
  - Michelle Clark Magnet High School, 5101 W Harrison St, Chicago, IL 60644
  - Chicago Vocational High School, 2100 E 87th St, Chicago, IL 60617

- o Theodore Roosevelt High School, 3436 W Wilson Ave, Chicago, IL 60625
  - o Richards Career Academy High School, 5009 South Laflin Street, Chicago, IL 60609
- Visit [cps.edu/vaccinations](https://cps.edu/vaccinations) to make an appointment at one of these locations, or to make a future appointment at one of our regional clinics, one of our school based health centers, or with our mobile vaccination unit.

The COVID-19 vaccine is free for all, and no proof of insurance or citizenship is required.

**Vaccines are safe for children five years and older.** Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is the safest and most effective way to protect children and adults from the virus. The CDC has approved the vaccine for children five years of age and older based on clinical-trial data showing that the Pfizer shot is safe and effective at preventing symptomatic infection. Children ages five to 11 years old will receive child-sized doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which is just a third of the amount of the adult vaccine. This will reduce the likelihood of side effects—such as sore arms, fever, or aches. The needle used to administer the vaccine to children is also much smaller.

**Furthermore, vaccines prevent students from having to quarantine at home when they come into contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.** This means students can remain in school where they get the best instruction, and parents and guardians won't have to scramble to find child care for a lengthy quarantine period.

It is rare that we make a late change to the school calendar, but we see this as an important investment in the future of this school year and the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and families. I hope you will strongly consider getting your children vaccinated on Vaccination Awareness Day.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Principal

[School Name]