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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 05, 2021

## McLean County Health Department Offering COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Age 5-11

Bloomington, IL— The McLean County Health Department (MCHD) will offer COVID-19 vaccine clinics specifically for children aged 5-11 on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 11:30 at Grossinger Motors Arena
- Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 - 11:30 at Grossinger Motors Arena

Registration for the first-dose clinics listed above will be *by appointment only* by calling the MCHD COVID-19 Call Center at (309) 888-5600. The Call Center is open Monday-Friday from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Walk-in appointments will not be immediately available for this age category.

This week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) [authorized](#) the use of a mini-dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (10 micrograms) to be administered in a series of two doses, 3 weeks apart, for all eligible individuals. The Illinois Department of Public Health ([IDPH](#)) [adopted](#) the CDC recommendations.

“Vaccination continues to be the most important tool we have to prevent severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and COVID-related death. Vaccines work by teaching your body’s immune system to make antibodies to fight disease without giving you the actual disease,” said MCHD Administrator Jessica McKnight. “Although most children will not suffer severe COVID-19 illness, the risks associated with contracting COVID-19 are considerably higher and more serious than the minimal risks associated with vaccination. Because there is no ‘risk free’ option, we encourage parents who still have concerns about the vaccine to talk to their pediatrician to make the most informed decision that is best for their family.”

Children under 12 have accounted for the highest percentage of newly reported cases of any age range in McLean County nearly every week for the last two months. Vaccinating this age category significantly reduces COVID-19 hospitalization and deaths across all age groups as proven by [population-based modeling study](#) in the UK.

Here is an average of all new COVID-19 cases by age category in McLean County between 9/2/21 and 11/3/21:

Age 0-11 = 22%

Age 12-17 = 09% (58.60% fully vaccinated as reported on 11-04-2021)

Age 0-17 = 31%

All minor children receiving a COVID-19 vaccine must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Parents who would like to assign a trusted adult proxy may do so by completing a MCHD proxy form. The form must be signed by both the parent/guardian AND the adult proxy who will be bringing the child to receive the vaccine. The proxy must provide proof of identification. The proxy form will remain on file at the MCHD. A printable version of the proxy form is available online here:

<https://health.mcleancountyil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/997/PermissionProxy-Form>

The GMA (Grossinger Motors Arena) is located at 101 S. Madison Street in Bloomington. Parking is free for the first four hours in the GMA parking deck. The parking lot and the arena are both handicap accessible. All patrons should enter the clinic from the GMA's south entrance.

More clinics for this age category are being planned and will be announced soon. Future clinics will include after-school hours.

The public can also visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) to find a list of all COVID-19 vaccination locations and search for locations by zip code.

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