

# COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance for Children and Youth in Care



PLACEMENT	AGE			
	6 months – 11 years	12 – 15 years	16 – 17 years	18+
JR Residents	Not Applicable	Requires parent/guardian consent unless Mature Minor* applied	Requires parent/guardian consent unless Mature Minor* applied	Adult choice
Dependant in Relative, Foster, or Suitable Other Care	Not yet eligible – Will require parent/guardian consent	Requires parent/guardian consent unless Mature Minor* applied	Requires parent/guardian consent unless Mature Minor* applied	N/A
Dependant and Legally Free	Not yet eligible – Will require parent/guardian consent	Requires parent/guardian consent unless Mature Minor* applied	Requires parent/guardian consent unless Mature Minor* applied	N/A
Extended Foster Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adult choice

*\*Mature Minor is defined as capable of understanding or appreciating the consequences of a medical procedure. In determining whether the patient is a mature minor, providers will evaluate the minor's age, intelligence, maturity, training, experience, economic independence or lack thereof, general conduct as an adult and freedom from the control of parents.*

## Assumptions:

- Youth who want the COVID-19 vaccination will be provided access to the vaccine with no barriers from caregivers.
- Children and youth in foster placement have access to the COVID-19 vaccination when eligible, through public clinics or regular health care providers.
- Youth in JR facilities will receive vaccinations through campus health programs, community vaccine resources, or primary health care providers.
- All parents are given the opportunity to provide consent for their child or youth to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.
- DCYF will engage and communicate with parents of children and youth in DCYF care for up to six weeks to obtain consent for COVID-19 vaccination.
- If no consent at the end of 6 weeks, the youth can make their own decision about whether to receive the vaccination. In some isolated cases a court order may be required.
- If no consent at the end of 6 weeks, DCYF can facilitate permission for children and youth in care to receive the vaccination.
- Youth who decline receipt of the COVID-19 vaccination will not be expected to receive the vaccination.
- 18+ encouraged to receive the vaccine for Public Health Safety of others in home and community.

Schedule an appointment, using the Vaccine Locator at <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov>, which shows nearby providers and lists vaccine type. When scheduling an appointment for someone 12 to 17, make sure the location you choose administers the Pfizer vaccine, which is the only vaccine currently authorized for people in that age group. If you have questions or need help scheduling an appointment, call the state's new COVID-19 vaccination number 833-VAX-HELP. Language assistance is available.

*If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, [ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov)).*

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**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**