

Janet T. Mills
Governor

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Dear Resource Family,

You are receiving this letter to make you aware that Maine residents age 12 and older are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective in preventing severe disease and death from COVID-19, and the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) encourages youth in this age bracket to get the vaccine as soon as it is available.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has recently been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use for all individuals over 12 years of age:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine requires special handling, which means it is not available at every vaccination site in Maine.
- Not every vaccination site with Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is prepared to vaccinate youth at this time.
- Some schools are offering COVID-19 vaccination clinics.
- You can visit [the Maine vaccination site](#) to learn more about which sites are accepting appointments for youth.

Permission from a parent or guardian is required for individuals under age 18 to receive the vaccine:

- For youth where DHHS is the legal guardian, the youth must be accompanied by a caseworker or resource parent, except at school-based vaccination clinics where it is recommended, but not required, for a resource parent or caseworker to be present.
- Resource Parents are authorized by OCFS to provide consent for immunizations.
- If a youth or parent objects to their child receiving vaccinations, the caseworker will notify the resource parent of the next steps following the Immunization of Children in the Custody of the Department of Health and Human Services policy effective March 23, 2021.
- If a youth or parent does not object, OCFS is enlisting the help of resource parents to ensure all eligible children receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Please notify your OCFS caseworker when youth have received the vaccine.

Each vaccination site has a consent form. Follow the instructions for submitting the form provided by the vaccination site. For more information, please visit <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/public-faq>.

Please review the COVID-19 Vaccination Information Sheet included with this letter to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and what to expect before, during, and after your appointment. To request this document in another format, call (207) 287-5014. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Maine Relay) or email ADA-Civilrights.dhhs@maine.gov. For any questions or transportation needs, please contact your OCFS caseworker.

Sincerely,

Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW
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DHHS-Office of Child and Family Services

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