

NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

212 Main Street, Room 200

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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Rebecca Busansky Sean Condon
Roni Gold Kaia Goleman
Laura Fallon Lonnie Kaufman
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Susan Voss



John A. Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Nick Bernier
Business Administrator

November 5, 2021

Dear Caregivers:

The FDA and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 5 to 11 years old. We'd like to provide you with current information and resources on vaccination for students in this age group and **encourage you to have your child vaccinated** to protect themselves, your family, and the entire school community.

While COVID-19 is generally less serious for school-age children than for older adults, children can become infected, and some may get very sick or suffer serious complications. Children can spread COVID-19 to others. Fortunately, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for children 5 years old or older. The COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be safe and effective against infection, serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Over 70 percent of Massachusetts youth ages 12-17 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Getting your child vaccinated will help limit COVID-19 spread in our school and community, and it can help keep your child and their schoolmates in school.

Please speak to your child's doctor about their plans to administer the vaccine once it is made available and raise any questions or concerns you have about the vaccine and your child.

To facilitate the vaccination of students in the 5-11 year-old age group, the Northampton Public Schools is working with the Northampton Health Department to provide a number of local and school-based vaccination clinics. **Clinic sites are being planned based on safe traffic flow and accessibility to all regardless of transportation needs or healthcare status.**

Please see attached flyer.

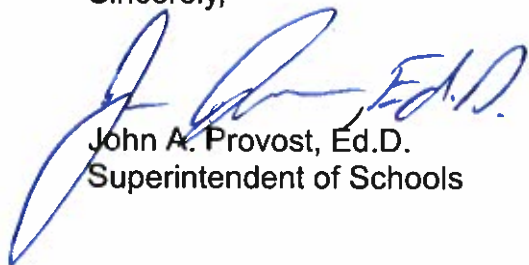
There are also hundreds of vaccination sites across the state that have indicated their willingness to vaccinate children 5 to 11. Many accept walk-in appointments, including CVS and Walgreens pharmacies, Market Basket and other grocery chains, and community health centers. More information on these sites, as well as safety information and helpful questions and answers, are all available at www.mass.gov/covidvaccine.

As a reminder:

- **The COVID vaccine is free for all, and no ID or insurance is needed to be vaccinated;**
- **You can get vaccinated even if you are undocumented. Getting a vaccine will not impact your or your family's immigration status.** The Public Charge rule does NOT apply to getting the vaccine.

Getting your family vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones. We appreciate your help to keep all of our students, faculty, staff, and volunteers, as well as our community, safe and healthy this fall and all year long.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Provost, Ed.D.", written over the typed name and title.

John A. Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Safron", written over the typed name and title.

Lisa Safron, BSN, RN, NCSN
Director of Health, Safety & Equity Programs

Free COVID-19 Vaccine for children ages 5-11!

No insurance needed.

Appointments are open for all children at all sites regardless of which school they attend.

To make appointments and find more information:

<https://www.northamptonma.gov/2219/Vaccine-Clinics>

Or go to www.northamptonma.gov and click on Vaccine Clinics

Ryan Road School

Tuesday, November 9th: 4-6 pm

JFK Middle School

Saturday, November 13th: 12-3pm

Jackson Street School

Thursday, November 18th: 4-6 p.m.

Elks Lodge, Florence, MA

17 Spring Street

Sunday, November 7th: 10am-4pm

Mondays in November: 4-6pm

Thursdays in November: 3-6pm

Additional clinics are being planned in the downtown neighborhood that will be accessible on foot or bus to make vaccine access equitable across families' transportation needs and healthcare status. Vaccine is also available at several local pediatrics offices.

- **The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine approved for 5-11 year olds will be given.**
- A **second dose** must be at least 21 days after the first dose. You will be able to make the appointment for your child's second dose at any of the above sites as soon as your child receives their first dose.
- **One caregiver** should plan to be with their child for their vaccination.
- These specific clinics are **by appointment** to accommodate the needs of children and for safe distancing in the vaccination area.
- This is the same vaccine that is available also at local pediatrics offices.

Please note: The Pfizer vaccine approved for ages 12+ will NOT be available at these clinics. Booster shots will NOT be available at these clinics.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Northampton
Health Department



Public Health
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Hampshire Public Health
Preparedness Coalition