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PUBLIC
HEALTH



June 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to you following the very recent approval of COVID-19 vaccinations for children from 6 months to 5 years old. We'd like to provide you with current information and resources on vaccination for this younger age group, and **we encourage you to have your child vaccinated** to protect themselves, your family, and community.

While COVID-19 is generally less serious for 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. The COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be safe and effective against infection, serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

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

Families may feel most comfortable getting their youngest children vaccinated by their primary care provider, but retail pharmacies are also able to vaccinate children aged 3 and above. More information, including safety information and helpful questions and answers, is available at www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineyoungkids

As a reminder:

- **The COVID vaccine is free for all, and no ID or insurance is needed to be vaccinated.**

Getting your family vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones. We appreciate your help to keep our community safe and healthy.

Margret R. Cooke
Acting Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner
Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education