

## **HO-CHUNK NATION**

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



## **COVID Vaccine Availability for Youth 12-17 years**

## **Dear Community Members-**

The Department has been working to provide COVID-19 vaccine to our community members and employees. We have been able to receive adequate Moderna vaccine supplies to vaccinate each of the priority groups that we have identified. The Moderna vaccine has an emergency use authorization for adults 18 years and over. The Department of Health is seeking your input on having the Pfizer vaccine available for youth ages 12-17 years. The Pfizer vaccine has shown to be safe and effective for children ages 16 and 17 years and provide them the same level of protection as adults. Clinical trials for vaccine for children under the age of 16 have recently concluded and new recommendations will be coming very soon for the age group 12-15 years.

Because of the specific storage and handling requirements of the Pfizer vaccine the Department of Health needs to determine if there are families interested in having their children ages 12-17 vaccinated. The vaccine for youth would be available to any enrolled Tribal member, any Tribal descendent, any household member of tribal members or descendants, and any household members of Ho-Chunk Nation employees. The Pfizer vaccine will only be able to be administered at the Ho-Chunk Health Care Center and the House of Wellness Clinic. If you are interested in having access to the Pfizer vaccine for youth ages 12-17 please contact Patient Services at 608-355-1240 extension 35545 or Rebecca Davis at Extension 35594. Please let us know if you would like your child(ren) to be added to the waiting list.

Having youth vaccinated is important in preventing COVID-19 illness within our community. If you have questions about specific medical concerns for your child please contact your family medical provider to determine what is be the best course of action. As COVID-19 vaccines continue through clinical trials for even younger children the Department of Health will continue to provide additional information to families as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Nail Cox

Dr. Cox,

Ho-Chunk Nation Medical Director

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