



HO-CHUNK NATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

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Recently an article was published by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicating that perhaps the COVID-19 vaccine is linked to myocarditis or pericarditis in children. Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle, pericarditis is inflammation of the lining around the heart. Both are short term, treatable, and can be caused by several autoimmune diseases. Please note that there has been no proven link between COVID-19 vaccine administration in children and these conditions. The number of cases that have occurred are no greater than what has been seen in the general population. The CDC published this information to encourage Providers to report any instances of this condition. The COVID-19 vaccine is still recommended for children and has been approved for adolescence 12-17 years.

It is important that parents and families understand ALL of the risks involved with making a vaccine or medical decision. There are risks to any medical procedure that should be carefully considered. There are also risks to NOT receiving medical care and/or vaccines. These risks are real and should also be considered. For example a long term risk associated with contracting COVID-19 virus includes cardiac disease. Assuming that one is “young and healthy” has risks. Because COVID-19 is so new it is very difficult to predict how anyone (young, old, healthy, immune compromised) is going to respond to the virus. Along with age and health condition we strongly encourage all community members to get regular routine care including important screenings for chronic medical conditions that could greatly impact your long term health. If you have any questions or concerns about getting a COVID-19 vaccine please contact your Provider to discuss your personal situation to determine what is best for your health.

The HCN DOH continues to recommend community members take precautions when going into public that includes using masks, social distancing, hand washing, and get vaccinated as soon as you can. For finding credible vaccine information please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/evalwebs.htm>

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