Pfizer Vaccine Available for 12-15-Year-Olds at the Jackson County Vaccination Equity Center at the Expo

On May 10, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer vaccine to prevent COVID-19 to include adolescents 12 to 15 years of age. In reaching this decision, FDA concluded that the known and potential benefits of the Pfizer vaccine in individuals 12 years of age and older outweighed its known and potential risks. Accordingly, the FDA amended the EUA issued December 11, 2020, for administration in individuals 16 years of age and older, to include the younger age group.

The Centers for Disease Control’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) convened yesterday, May 12, 2021, to review the FDA’s decision for authorization and to evaluate the evidence for its use. ACIP recommended the vaccine for use in this population, and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup convened later yesterday evening and endorsed the ACIP’s recommendation.

Starting Thursday, May 13, youth 12–15 years of age in Oregon are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Jackson County Vaccination Equity Center at the Expo will begin vaccinating youth 12-15 beginning May 14. Register for an appointment at JacksonCounty.org/GetVaccinated or call 211. Appointments are encouraged, but they are not required.

Parental or guardian consent is required to vaccinate people 12–14 years old; a parent or guardian needs to be present with the youth during their vaccination appointment at the Jackson County Vaccination Center at the Expo and sign the necessary documents. If a parent or guardian cannot be present, another adult can accompany the minor with written consent from the parent/guardian. Under Oregon law, minors 15 years of age and older may consent to medical treatment, including vaccinations, when provided by a physician, physician assistant, naturopath, nurse practitioner, dentist or optometrist, or other professionals operating under the license of these providers.

After receiving the Pfizer vaccine, potential side effects are the same in youth as they are in older people, although side effects are more common in youth. Most people develop some soreness at the injection site. Fatigue and headache are common. Less common are muscle aches, chills, joint pain, vomiting, or fever. Most resolve after a day or two.
Vaccination Options at the Jackson County Vaccination Equity Center:

- **Walk-through Moderna Site** (for individuals 18 years and older)
  - Vaccine: Moderna
  - Operation Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
  - No appointment required
- **Drive-Through Pfizer Site** (for individuals 16 years and older) (Ages 12-15 can begin accessing the vaccine at the Expo on May 14)
  - Vaccine: Pfizer
  - Operation Hours: Sunday- Saturday
    - Wednesday and Thursday: 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
    - All other days: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
  - No appointment required

The mission of Jackson County Health and Human Services is to plan, coordinate and provide public services that protect and promote the health and well-being of county residents.