



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 5, 2021

**Surry County Health and Nutrition Center COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Plan
for Children Ages 5-11**

Surry County Health and Nutrition Center (SCHNC) is now providing COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 5-11 following the November 2, 2021 approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently, the Pfizer vaccine is the only option for this newly approved age group, and all children ages 5-11 are eligible under the newest guidance.

Vaccines for children ages 5-11 are smaller doses and are specifically formulated to be safe and effective. Similar to what was seen in adult vaccine trials, vaccination was nearly 91 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 among children aged 5-11 years. In clinical trials, vaccine side effects were mild, with the most common side effects being a sore arm, tiredness, headache, and muscle pain. These side effects are normal signs that their bodies are building protection.

COVID-19 vaccines have undergone, and will continue to undergo, the most intensive safety monitoring. Vaccinating our younger population will help protect them from getting COVID-19 and therefore reduce their risk of severe disease, hospitalizations, and long term COVID-19 complications. Getting your children vaccinated can help protect them against COVID-19 and allow for enhanced in-person learning by helping reduce community transmission.

In addition, getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect your child, your family, and others. Vaccinating children can help protect family members, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination, and those family members who may be at increased risk of getting very sick if they are infected. Children 5 years of age and older becoming fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can also help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

Vaccinations are the number one tool to prevent hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

The Surry County Health and Nutrition Center will be offering the Pfizer COVID-19 pediatric vaccine in-house, Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm, by appointment or walk-in. To make an appointment, please call us at (336) 401-8400.

For more information, please call us at (336) 401-8400 or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SurryCountyHealthandNutritionCenter/> for the latest updates.