



## Department of Social Services

Dear Child Care Licensing Community,

Recently the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for all Americans over the age of 6 months. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all individuals aged 6 months to 4 years old get the COVID-19 vaccine, and those aged 5 and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine primary series and booster dose.

COVID-19 vaccines are critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19 for both adults and children. Community care Licensing encourages you to help spread the word on the importance of vaccination to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

In California, the Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that everyone aged 6 months and older get a COVID-19 vaccine, and everyone aged 5 and older get a booster dose when eligible, to help protect against severe outcomes of COVID-19.

Here is some valuable information to share with your parents.

What we know:

- The COVID-19 vaccination can help protect children from getting COVID-19.
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- Although fewer children have been sick with COVID-19 compared to adults, children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and can get sick and/or can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others.
- [3 in 4 children have been infected with COVID-19 in the US](#)
- COVID-19 hospitalizations for Children [ages 4 and under were five times as high](#) during the Omicron surge than during Delta. Once children were hospitalized with COVID-19, 1 in 5 were also admitted to the ICU.
- Parents now have a choice to vaccinate their children as young as 6 months to 17 years with either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
- We want to ensure that parents have access to reliable and accurate information when they are deciding whether to vaccinate their children.
- The vaccine is safe and effective for children older than 5, [over ten million children 5-11 years and over seventeen million children 12-17](#) have safely received the vaccine.
- Get the Facts on COVID-19 Vaccines, Boosters, and Additional Doses. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has information on their website about [COVID-19 vaccinations](#)

Where can you find COVID-19 Vaccines?

Together with the CDPH Child Care Resource & Referral agencies and other early learning programs are hosting 58 vaccination pop-up sites around California.

These vaccine pop-up clinics will begin in July and information for child care providers and their families will be shared about specific dates, times and locations.

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To find a vaccine, visit the [My Turn webpage](#) or call 1-833-422-4255. Parents can also talk to their child's health care provider, or visit [Vaccinate All 58](#) to learn more about the safe and effective vaccines available for all Californians aged 6 months and older.

As part of our Communication Plan, the Department will continue to communicate information through Provider Information Notices (PIN), webinars, stakeholder calls, Licensed Program Analysts, and social media. Please help to disseminate the information to staff and families. A PIN with Frequently Asked Questions will be released shortly.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will continue collaborate with our partners to address any barriers to children's healthy growth and development to help ensure that children have a strong, healthy foundation as they learn, develop, and play. We encourage you to help spread the word and engage in efforts to mitigate COVID-19.

In partnership,  
Community Care Licensing's Child Care Program

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