

April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Subject: Free COVID-19 Vaccine Will be Offered at School**

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect your child, your family, and your community from this potentially serious disease. The vaccine is safe and effective. The Pfizer-BioNTech has been rigorously tested through clinical trials and has been administered to millions of people across the globe for more than six months. It has proven to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

There are many benefits to getting vaccinated against COVID-19 including protecting your child's health and future, not having to quarantine after exposure to the virus, freedom to travel domestically without testing or quarantine, and getting one step closer to community immunity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update guidance for fully vaccinated people that will move us forward toward a return to normal activities.

We are working with your school to offer the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to your student. Our staff will be onsite to administer the vaccine. **If you decide not to vaccinate, or if you do not return the required permission form to the school, the free COVID-19 vaccine will not be given to your child at school. The opportunity to get your child vaccinated is encouraged but not mandatory. This vaccine is free.**

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, contact your school nurse or Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services by emailing [CovidVaccine@CoMo.Gov](mailto:CovidVaccine@CoMo.Gov) or by calling 573.874.7356. You can also learn more at [CoMo.Gov/CovidVaccine](http://CoMo.Gov/CovidVaccine). Students who do not get the vaccine at school may receive free COVID-19 shots at the health department clinic, 1005 West Worley. Appointments can be scheduled online at [CoMo.Gov/CovidVaccine](http://CoMo.Gov/CovidVaccine) or by calling 573.874.CITY (2489).

Sincerely,



Stephanie K. Browning, Director  
Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services