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Butte County to Open Pfizer Vaccinations for 12-15 Age Group

Following FDA Emergency Use Authorization, Federal and State Safety Review Experts Recommend the Vaccine as Safe and Effective for Protecting Young People 12+

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – Butte County parents and legal guardians can schedule appointments for young people in their family who are aged 12+ to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine using the statewide booking system: MyTurn.ca.gov. This expanded eligibility is effective immediately for all vaccine providers in the county.

On Wednesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) vaccine safety review panel and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup determined that the vaccine is safe and effective in protecting this age group against severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19 disease, and noted that the vaccination in this age group also appears to protect adolescents from being able to transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus to others.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](https://www.aap.org) reports that youth now account for 22% of new COVID-19 cases in the U.S. This time last year it was only around 3%. It is important to get young people vaccinated to prevent new SARS-CoV-2 infections and COVID-19 disease from further spread, especially with the increase of SARS-CoV-2 virus variants in Butte County and nearby counties.

“With COVID-19 cases among youth on the rise, the timing of the Pfizer authorization for ages 12-15 could not be better. While some youth have a less severe or asymptomatic COVID-19 infection, they can still transmit the virus to others,” explained Dr. Robert Bernstein, Butte County Public Health Officer.

Providers and parents/caregivers can review the Pfizer Vaccine Fact Sheets issued by The Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- For Providers: www.fda.gov/media/144413/download
- For parents/caregivers www.fda.gov/media/144414/download

Residents ages 12 to 15 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine and must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver and have proof of age at time of appointment. The Pfizer vaccine is administered in two doses taken three weeks (21 days) apart. It has already been safely administered to millions of California adults, including more than 30 percent of 16- and 17-year-olds.

Residents 18 years and older remain eligible for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

To book a vaccination in Butte County, please visit the BCPH COVID-19 Vaccination website: www.buttecounty.net/COVIDvaccine. Those without internet may call the Butte County COVID Call Center for assistance: 552-3050.

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