



**Benzie County Office**  
6051 Frankfort Hwy, Ste 100  
Benzonia, MI 49616

Phone: 231-882-4409  
Fax: 231-882-0143

[www.bldhd.org](http://www.bldhd.org)

**Leelanau County Office**  
7401 E. Duck Lake Rd  
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Phone: 231-256-0200  
Fax: 231-882-0143

## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**November 3, 2021**

### **Vaccination clinics for 5-11 year olds start Friday, November 12th**

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department will begin to give COVID-19 vaccinations for children 5-11 years old starting November 12th. Appointments are required and can be made by visiting [our website](http://our website).

Following approval by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, providers across the country and northern Michigan are preparing to provide the Pfizer vaccine for children as young as 5-years-old.

Scientists have conducted clinical trials with about 3,000 children and the FDA has determined that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has met the safety and efficacy standards for authorization in children ages 5 through 15 years. In addition, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has now been FDA-approved for people ages 16 and older. To learn more about the process of developing, authorizing, and approving COVID-19 vaccines [click here](#).

“COVID-19 infection can cause serious illness in children, and that risk far exceeds any potential risk of the vaccine,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Pediatrician and the Medical Director for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. “I strongly urge parents to consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 years and older as soon as possible. If parents have any concerns or questions about whether the vaccine is right for their child, they should consult with their primary care provider,” Dr. Meyerson added. Parents can also call their child’s primary care provider to inquire about COVID-19 vaccinations.

Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can:

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others

The Health Department is allowing children 10 years and older to schedule in our regular COVID-19 vaccine clinics if the parent chooses. Otherwise, the health department is hosting clinics especially geared toward children 5 to 11 years old. These separate clinics will accommodate children in numerous ways, including allowing parents to comfort their child by having them sit on their laps and be more intimate and smaller than clinics held for adults.

A parent/guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18 to a COVID-19 clinic should bring some form of identification for their child and insurance cards.

To schedule an appointment exclusively for children 5 to 11 years old, [click here](#). To schedule an appointment into our regular COVID-19 vaccine clinic for anyone 10 and older, [click here](#). Anyone may call the Michigan COVID hotline at 888-535-6136 if they have questions or are not able to find a time or date that works for them and/or their child. The calendar on the website [www.bldhd.org](http://www.bldhd.org) lists COVID-19 clinics currently scheduled through December 15th.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

[RPomeroy@bldhd.org](mailto:RPomeroy@bldhd.org)

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