



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

1115 Washington Street, SE • P.O. Box 40983 • Olympia WA 98504-0983

August 3, 2022

To: Caregivers of Dependent Children and Youth

From: Darcey Hancock, Director of Field Operations

RE: Revised Instruction for caregivers obtaining vaccinations for children and youth in out-of-home care who have consent to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and are eligible for vaccination based on current public health guidelines and for.

Washington state officials, based on FDA and CDC recommendations, are making determinations regarding the ages of children and youth who are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. As of June 18, 2022, children and youth who are age six (6) months and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination(s) currently approved for their age group. As vaccine authorization is expanded to cover younger populations of dependent children over the coming months, this guidance will apply to all children and youth deemed eligible to receive the vaccine(s).

Key Points to Remember

- Caseworkers must obtain consent from parents for youth who are under 18, and must also obtain consent from youth who are 13 or older, as indicated in the attached chart, before facilitating the vaccine.
- In some instances, a court order will be necessary. The caseworker will provide you a copy of the signed consent or the court order that will allow the children and youth you are caring for to be vaccinated.
- There are multiple variables that affect what consent is required, so it is important for you to talk to the child's caseworker. The chart at the end of this document is a tool to help you understand what consent may or may not be required.

Steps for Getting Child/Youth Vaccinated

- Consult with the caseworker to gather the required consent(s) and documentation.
- Documents the caseworker will provide to you include:
 - Signed parental consent or a court order allowing vaccination
 - Signed youth consent for all youth 13 and older
- Once you have copies of the appropriate consent documents from the caseworker, you can take the child or youth to any site that has age appropriate vaccines available.
- Be sure to contact the vaccination site you are planning on using before visiting. Each site has different requirements for proof of age and consent at the time of the vaccination.

- Visit <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov/> to schedule a vaccination appointment.
- If you need help making an appointment or making arrangements with a vaccination site:
 - For Apple Health Core Connections (AHCC)/Coordinated Care (CCW) enrolled children/youth:
 - Call 1-844-354-9876 (M-F, 8am-5pm) or
 - Email AHCCTeam@coordinatedcarehealth.com
 - For all youth not enrolled in AHCC (Tribal, fee for service, private insurance, undocumented, etc) contact Fostering Well Being (FWB) for Health Care Coordination:
 - Call 360-725-2626 (M-F 8am-5pm)
 - Email fwb@dshs.wa.gov
- If you have copies of the required consent documents, the vaccination site may still require the out-of-home caregiver's signature at the time of vaccination. You may sign at the vaccination site. This is allowed because we already have the legal authorization from the parent or a court order.
 - Be sure to contact the vaccination site you are planning on using before visiting, and ask about what will be required.
 - Take a copy of the signed consent forms from the parent and child or court order with you just in case it's needed.
 - You may need a second copy of the signed consent forms from the parent and child or court order when you take the child for the second dose of the vaccine.

FAQ

- What if the parent does not consent for the child or youth to be vaccinated?
 - Parents have the legal authority to make this choice even when their children are in out-of-home care. The caseworker will help you navigate this situation.
- What if the youth wants to be vaccinated but the parent won't consent?
 - The caseworker can help schedule an appointment with a medical provider who can determine the appropriateness of a vaccine for that youth. If vaccination is deemed appropriate by the medical provider, the caseworker will seek a court order for vaccination.
- What if the vaccination site still asks me to give consent?
 - As long as you have the required consent forms signed by the parent and the child (if 13 or over) or a court order, you can provide your signature on the paperwork at the vaccination site.
- Why is consent from a parent or a court order required for this vaccine?
 - Parents retain some medical decision-making authority even when their children are placed in out-of-home care. Seeking their consent is a way to ensure that parents are informed and can participate in their child's medical care.

If you have any questions, please contact the caseworker assigned to the child or youth in your care.

COVID-19 Vaccine Consent Guidance for Children and Youth in Care

Legal status (for all children and youth)	Youth Consent 13+		Parent	Additional action needed	Legal action needed
	Is youth 13+ and capable of consent?	Youth			
Dependent 12 and Under	NA	NA	Consents	Facilitate vaccine	No
Dependent 12 and Under	NA	NA	Cannot be reached regarding consent	Obtain PCP recommendation regarding vaccination	Obtain Court Order if PCP recommends vaccination
Dependent 12 and Under	NA	NA	Does not consent	Do not vaccinate*	No
Dependent 13+	Yes	Consents	Consents	Facilitate vaccine	No
Dependent 13+	Yes	Does not consent	Consents	Do not vaccinate*	No
Dependent 13+	Yes	Consents	Does not consent** or cannot be reached regarding consent	Obtain PCP recommendation regarding vaccination	Obtain Court Order if PCP recommends vaccination
Dependent 13+	Yes	Does not consent	Does not consent or cannot be reached regarding consent	Do not vaccinate*	No
Dependent 13+	No	NA	Consents	Facilitate vaccine	No
Dependent 13+	No	NA	Does not consent**	Do not vaccinate*	No
Dependent 13+	No	NA	Cannot be reached regarding consent	Obtain PCP recommendation regarding vaccination	Obtain Court Order if PCP recommends vaccination
Dependent- Legally Free 12 and Under	NA	NA	NA	Obtain PCP recommendation regarding vaccination	Obtain court order if PCP recommends vaccination

Dependent-Legally Free 13+	Yes	Consents	NA	Obtain PCP recommendation regarding vaccination	Obtain court order if PCP recommends vaccination
Dependent-Legally Free 13+	Yes	Does not consent	NA	Do not vaccinate*	No
Dependent-Legally Free 13+	No	NA	NA	Obtain PCP recommendation regarding vaccination	Obtain court order if PCP recommends vaccination
Extended Foster Care	Yes	Consents	NA	Facilitate vaccine	No
Extended Foster Care	Yes	Does Not Consent	NA	Do not vaccinate*	No
Extended Foster Care	No	NA	NA	Consult with legal guardian if available, if no legal guardian obtain PCP recommendation regarding vaccination	Obtain court order if PCP recommends vaccination

*Youth and their parents should be encouraged to meet with their Primary Care Physician (PCP) either in person or through a virtual appointment for the purpose of discussing the COVID-19 vaccine and understanding the vaccine's risks and benefits. This is particularly important for youth and parents who are hesitant to consent to the vaccine, or when youth may not be able to give consent. Youth who do not consent to receiving the COVID-19 vaccination will not be expected to receive the vaccination.

** In circumstances where a parent objects to their child or youth receiving the vaccine for COVID-19, DCYF may seek a court order if the child 13 -17 wants to receive the vaccine and is able to give consent, or a particular child who is not able to consent has a specific need to receive the vaccine. Examples of when the COVID-19 might be necessary for a particular child include when the child's PCP thinks it is specifically important for them or if the vaccine is necessary to preserve a placement.