



**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: Child Welfare Field Operations Staff

From: Darcey Hancock, Director of Field Operations

RE: REVISED Guidance for obtaining consent for children and youth in out-of-home care who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine based on current public health guidelines.

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. DCYF supports all eligible children and youth receiving the vaccine. As of the date of this memo, children and youth who are six (6) months and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination(s) currently approved for their age. Some children and youth are eligible for booster shots. If children, youth or families have any questions or concerns about the COVID vaccines, consultation with the child/youth's primary care physician is recommended.

Caseworkers must obtain consent before facilitating the vaccine, 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 [COVID-19 Vaccine Consent guidance](#). In some instances, a court order will be necessary. As vaccine authorization is expanded to cover younger populations of dependent children over the coming months, this guidance will apply to all youth deemed eligible to receive the vaccine(s).

If you have any questions, please contact Trishia Benshoof at (360) 789-0049 or trishia.benshoof@dcyf.wa.gov.