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Date: December 6, 2021  
To: All DCS Staff  
From: Sarah Sailors, Deputy Director of Field Operations  
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Five (5) Years to 11 Years of Age  
DCS-21-21

This administrative letter is intended to provide information to Department of Child Services (DCS) employees about Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination eligibility as it relates to children under the care of DCS who are between five (5) years to 11 years of age.

COVID-19 is defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as “a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.” The CDC, through the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (marketed as COMIRNATY) for those children five (5) years to 11 years of age. The vaccination is two (2) shots which are administered 21 days apart. DCS encourages children to receive this vaccination.

For eligible children who are post-Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and eligible for the vaccine, DCS staff should consult with the child’s primary care physician for their recommendation for each child and share this information at a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting.

For eligible children who are part of an in-home Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case, DCS staff should inform the child’s parent(s) about vaccine eligibility so a parent/child decision may be made. If a child wishes to receive a vaccination and the parents are not agreeable, DCS should support the child through a court order.

For eligible children who are part of an out-of-home CHINS case, DCS staff should attempt to locate and speak with the child’s parent(s) to obtain consent for the vaccination. If parent(s) cannot be located, DCS may pursue a court order for the child to receive a vaccination.

Thank you for supporting our children and their health.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sailors  
Deputy Director of Field Operations



*Indiana children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.*