

More School Vaccine Clinics

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PPS will offer COVID-19 vaccines to students at Boise-Eliot/Humboldt Elementary, Cesar Chavez School, Faubion School, Lent Elementary, Rigler Elementary, Rosa Parks Elementary, Scott Elementary and Sitton Elementary.

Historically, school vaccine clinics have been more convenient for parents and guardians, as children are already present in the school and do not have to travel to a different location to receive their vaccine.

Clinics will be held after school dismissal and into the evening, allowing more parents to conveniently vaccinate their children at a time when they may already be picking them up for the day or after work hours. Parents will receive information about the clinics first, then it will be shared with the general public. Additional school sites for vaccines are also anticipated in the fu-

ture.

The pilot partnership with Kaiser Permanente and Medical Teams International is part of a broader, nationwide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 — particularly among children where case numbers have risen in recent weeks. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children between 5 and 11 has received emergency use authorization by the FDA, and is expected to be fully authorized by the CDC in the coming weeks.

“Life during these last few months of the pandemic has been especially complicated for parents of young children because their kids haven’t been eligible for the vaccine,” said Dr. Lisa Denike, chief of Pediatrics at Kaiser Permanente. “Being able to vaccinate this age group is a big step forward in keeping our kids safe while they’re at school and out in the community, limiting the spread of COVID, and bringing this pandemic to an end.”

COVID-19 vaccines and

booster shots will also be available to PPS parents and guardians. In order to receive a vaccine, a student must be accompanied by their parent or guardian. The vaccine mandate currently being discussed by the PPS Board would not apply to children ages 5 to 11. The Board is currently only considering a mandate for students ages 12 and older.

“One day our students will recount their own experiences of receiving a vaccine that changed the course of their generation’s pandemic for the better,” said Superintendent Guerrero. “Vaccination is the best tool we have to help keep our students, and our broader community, healthy and safe. We’re grateful to collaborate with partners to make this upcoming vaccination opportunity available and accessible to our families.”

Visit pps.net to learn more about the district’s protocols for keeping students and staff safe from COVID-19.

Pfizer Shots for Kids Approved

U.S. health officials on Tuesday gave the final signoff to Pfizer’s kid-size COVID-19 shot, a major expansion of the nation’s vaccination campaign.

The Food and Drug Administration already authorized the shots for children ages 5 to 11 — doses just a third of the amount given to teens and adults. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends who should receive FDA-cleared vaccines.

The announcement by CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky came only hours after an advisory panel unanimously decided Pfizer’s shots should be opened to the 28 million youngsters in that age group.

Millions of shots made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech have already been shipped to states, doctors’ offices and pharmacies, to be ready for CDC’s decision.

“Today is a monumental day in the course of this pandemic,” Walensky told the advisory panel as it began its

deliberations earlier Tuesday.

She said while the risk of severe disease and death is lower in young children than adults, it is real — and that COVID-19 has had a profound social, mental health and educational impact on youngsters, including widening disparities in learning.

“There are children in the second grade who have never experienced a normal school year,” Walensky said. “Pediatric vaccination has the power to help us change all of that.”

The 5- to 11-year-olds will receive two shots, three weeks apart, the same schedule as everyone else -- but using a smaller needle.

Many parents have clamored for vaccine protection for youngsters so they can resume normal childhood activities without risking their own health — or fear bringing the virus home to a more vulnerable family member. But CDC’s advisers said they recognize many parents also have questions, and may be fearful of the vaccine because of rampant misinformation.

Glass Plant Fix or Close

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Under the terms of the agreement, Owens-Brockway must either submit a permit application to install pollution controls by June 30 or shut down. If the company decides to install pollution control technology, it would have to do so within 18 months of DEQ approval of the application.

DEQ spokesperson Lauren Wirtis said the \$1 million fine will be cut by more than half under conditions that the company takes the major steps needed to improve air or water quality or reduce hazardous waste.

Cully residents and environmental organizations have been asking federal and state regulators for stricter air quality enforcement for the facility.

Earthjustice, a public-interest environmental law organization, conducted an air modeling study that found the plant was emit-

ting harmful pollutants, including nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and lead into the surrounding environment, impacting three nearby schools and a park where youth play and get exercise.

Segio Lopez, climate and transportation program coordinator for Verde, a non-profit group in the Cully Neighborhood, was hopeful the agreement between the plant and DEQ would resolve some of their concerns.

“This a huge step in the path forward for our community,” he said. “There’s still more work to do and the fight for good continues. Thank you to the many organizations, community partners and community members whose advocacy, engagement, and organizing pushed this agreement forward. Together we can hold polluters accountable.”

--Associated Press contributed to this story

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