



FDA ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE FOR INDIVIDUALS 16 YEARS AND OLDER

August 23, 2021 – Today the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted full approval to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older.

In December of 2020, Pfizer was made available to individuals 16 years and older under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) which allowed for its use in response to the epidemic and is allowable in an emergency to prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions when certain criteria have been met such as safety and efficacy. In May of 2021, this EUA was expanded to include individuals 12 to 15 years of age and again expanded in August of 2021 to include the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. With the approval of Pfizer’s vaccine, now brand named “Comirnaty” for individuals 16 years and older, the Pfizer EUA remains in effect for children 12 to 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. Pfizer has started the FDA application for full approval for their vaccine in these populations as well.

To date, over 5.4 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine have been administered in Michigan and 65% of the state have gotten at least their first dose of one of the three vaccines; in District Health Department #10’s jurisdiction 56.6% of all ages eligible have initiated vaccination. From January through July, unvaccinated residents in the state have accounted for a staggering 98% of COVID cases, 95% of hospitalizations and 96% of deaths.

“For those in our communities who have been hesitant to get vaccinated due to concerns over the vaccine’s Emergency Use Authorization, we expect today’s announcement to boost people’s confidence” states Kevin Hughes, Health Officer. Those individuals with remaining concerns are encouraged to consult with their primary care provider. “Vaccines are one tool in the toolbox to keep individuals and our communities safe” Hughes added.

District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) continues to schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments at www.dhd10.org/schedule or by calling 888-217-3904. Youth 12- to 15-year-olds must have a parent or legal guardian present during their vaccination while 16- and 17- year-olds must have written or verbal consent from their parent or legal guardian to be vaccinated.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, go to www.dhd10.org/covid-19-vaccine. To stay up to date on the latest information, sign up for Public Health Alerts at www.dhd10.org/subscribe.

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