

**Contact:**

**June 1st, 2022**

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**COVID-19 Booster Doses Available for 5-11-Year-Olds**  
*Available at Van Buren/Cass District Health Department*

Beginning June 1st, 2022, Van Buren/Cass District Health Department (VBCDHD) will start offering booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for children between 5 to 11 years old. The booster dose should be administered at least five months after the 2nd dose in the two-dose series.

Pfizer-BioNTech is the only COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized for those ages 5-11 years old. COVID-19 booster doses may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including the flu vaccine. Symptoms may vary when children are infected with COVID-19, and unvaccinated children can still infect those around them, even if they are not showing symptoms. Getting children vaccinated helps keep communities safe.

Over the past month, COVID-19 cases have increased steadily in all age groups. Since the pandemic began, more than 4.8 million children ages 5 through 11 have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 15,000 have been hospitalized, and over 180 have died. As cases increase across the country, a booster dose will safely help restore and enhance protection against severe disease.

Children ages 5 through 11 years who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a total of 4 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to stay up to date. The 4 doses include a primary series of 3 doses, plus 1 booster (4th dose), given on the schedule shown below. Number of doses to complete primary series and timing:

- 2nd dose given 3 weeks (21 days) after 1st dose
- 3rd dose given at least 4 weeks (28 days) after 2nd dose
- 1st Booster given at least 3 months after 3rd dose



VBCDHD is offering COVID-19 vaccination clinics at both Lawrence and Dowagiac locations. Each location has a separate link to schedule an appointment. Appointments are **required** for persons under 18 years of age. Clinic dates, times and links are below;

**Dowagiac**: 302 S. Front St. Dowagiac, MI 49047

*Monday* - 9:00 to 11:00 AM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM

*Wednesday* - 9:00 to 11:00 AM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Scheduling link:

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=20619653&location=DOWAGIAC%20%40%20VanBuren%20Cass%20District%20Health%20Dept.%20302%20S%20Front%20St.%20%202nd%20floor%20Dowagiac%2C%20MI%2049047>

**Lawrence**: 260 South St. Lawrence, MI 49064

*Monday* - 9:00 to 11:00 AM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM

*Thursday* - 9:00 to 11:00 AM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Scheduling link:

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=20619653&location=LAWRENCE%20%40%20VanBuren%20Cass%20District%20Health%20Department%20260%20South%20St.%20Lawrence%2C%20MI%2049064>

Call 269-621-3143 for more information on vaccination, or to make an appointment over the phone. For more information on COVID-19 vaccine, booster doses, testing, and updated COVID-19 guidance, please visit <https://vbcassdhd.org/covid-19/>. For more information on vaccines for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>

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