

A message from HAINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Haines family,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) took the important step of approving the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages five to 11. This is incredible news, as now nearly all Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students are eligible to receive the vaccine—making our schools even safer teaching and learning environments for staff, students, and families. **To ensure all eligible students have the opportunity to receive the vaccine as quickly as possible, I am pleased to announce that CPS schools will be closed on Friday, November 12 for Vaccination Awareness Day.**

Vaccination Awareness Day on Friday, November 12 is an opportunity for parents and guardians to take their children five years of age and older to get vaccinated at their pediatrician's office, at a healthcare provider, or at a CPS school-based site or community vaccination event. In the days leading up to Vaccination Awareness Day, I hope you will encourage your students and their families to get vaccinated on November 12. Here are some messages you can share:

- **The COVID-19 vaccine is free for all, and no proof of insurance or citizenship is required.** To schedule a vaccination appointment at a convenient location, please visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to find a vaccine near you, or visit [cps.edu/vaccinations](https://cps.edu/vaccinations) to make an appointment at a CPS-run site.
- **Vaccines are safe for children five years and older.** Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is the safest and most effective way to protect children and adults from the virus. The CDC has approved the vaccine for children five years of age and older based on clinical-trial data showing that the Pfizer shot is safe and effective at preventing symptomatic infection.
- **Children ages five to 11 years old will receive child-sized doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which is just a third of the amount of the adult vaccine.** This will reduce the likelihood of side effects—such as sore arms, fever, or aches. The needle used to administer the vaccine to children is also much smaller.
- **Once fully vaccinated, students will not be asked to quarantine at home when they come into contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, as long as they are well.** This means students can remain in school where they get the best instruction, and parents and guardians won't have to scramble to find child care for a quarantine period.

**Important information for staff regarding schools being closed on November 12.**

- Schools will be closed on November 12; Network and Central Offices will remain open.

It is rare that we make a late change to the school calendar, and we appreciate your support and flexibility. We see Vaccination Awareness Day as an important investment in the future of this school year and the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and families.

Sincerely,

Pedro Martinez Lauren Clair-McClellan

Chief Executive Officer Acting Chief Talent Officer

Chicago Public Schools Chicago Public Schools