

**For Immediate Release:
Thursday, November 4, 2021**

GTCHD now scheduling for 5 - 11 age group at LaFranier location

On Tuesday, November 2, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 -11 years as a 2-dose series taken 3 weeks apart. The dose for children ages 5 - 11 is one-third of the dosage of the vaccine for older adolescents and adults.

In response to the announcement, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) will be releasing appointments on Thursday, November 4, for the week of November 8 - 12. (In observation of Veteran's Day, we will be closed on Thursday, November 11). Recognizing the challenges that come along with immunizations in a younger population, all pediatric appointments made will be conducted at the **main health department building located at 2600 LaFranier Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686** - not the Cherryland Clinic.

Based on data provided by Pfizer, the vaccine was shown to be nearly 91% effective at preventing symptomatic disease from COVID-19 in this age group. The most commonly reported side effects, typically lasting one to three days, were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, chills, muscle pain, fever, and joint pain. Aside from pain at the injection site, most side effects were reported after the second dose.

To schedule an appointment, please [follow this link](#). If you are able to schedule an appointment, but unable to keep it, please make sure to cancel the appointment to open it up for someone else.

The GTCHD recommends that you speak with your child's primary care provider to discuss the risks and benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Many offices in the area are also offering the same COVID-19 vaccination.

GTCHD continues to schedule for all other eligible groups at Cherryland location

The Cherryland Clinic (1700 S. Garfield Ave., Traverse City, MI, 49686) will continue to vaccinate all other eligible age groups. If you are not of the 5 - 11 age group and would like to schedule an appointment, [please follow this link](#).

If you are unable to obtain an appointment through the GTCHD, please check with your primary care provider as well as local pharmacies for availability. The GTCHD recommends that you speak with your primary care provider to discuss the risks and benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

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