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Oct. 7, 2021

To: Youth in I/DD Services (**Services Coordinators and Providers: please share this information with young people in services**)
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Subject: Vaccines for youth

Since January 2021, the number of new cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19 in Oregonians aged 10 to 19 is growing. This is also true in the intellectual and developmental disabilities system, where we are seeing a rising rate of COVID-19 infections in younger people.

Services Coordinators and providers that work with you can help access to the COVID-19 vaccine and information to ensure you can make an informed choice.

If your parent or guardian doesn't support your vaccine decision: talk with another trusted adult to get more information. In Oregon, minors 15 and older can consent to COVID-19 vaccination on their own. Parental or guardian consent is required to vaccinate people 12-14 years old, but the parental or guardian consent requirement does not necessarily mean a parent or guardian must go with the youth to receive the vaccination. You should contact the vaccine provider or vaccination clinic to determine whether a parent or guardian must be present. Oregon Health Authority's [Frequently Asked Questions for youth 12-17](#) has more information.

Some other things to remember:

- **The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for teens.** It was tested in thousands of study participants and produced enough data to convince the FDA to authorize it for emergency use.
- **The COVID-19 vaccine is free.** The vaccines will be provided at no cost to you. You do not need health insurance.

Please check out some of these resources for teens and younger people:

- **Why Get a COVID-19 Social Story** in [English](#), [عربي](#) (Arabic), [한국인](#) (Korean), [Русский](#) (Russian), [Soomaali](#) (Somali), [Español](#) (Spanish), [简体中文](#) (Simplified Chinese), and [TiếngViệt](#) (Vietnamese)
- **Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine Social Story** in [English](#), [عربي](#) (Arabic), [한국인](#) (Korean), [Русский](#) (Russian), [Soomaali](#) (Somali), [Español](#) (Spanish), [简体中文](#) (Simplified Chinese), and [TiếngViệt](#) (Vietnamese)

Youtube Videos:

- [Mariana's Story](#)
- [My Vaccine Story: Mark and Crystal and their teen daughter](#)
- [My Vaccine Story: Dre, 15](#)
- [My Vaccine Story: Abigail, 18](#)
- [My Vaccine Story: Josh, 14](#)
- [My Vaccine Story: Laney, 15](#)
- [My Vaccine Story: Maya, 14](#)

Blog Posts

- [Vaccine Voices: Liam, 16](#)
- [Accessibility toolkits for vaccine clinics](#)
- [Teens 12 and older can return to activities with vaccination](#)
- [Disability toolkit now available](#)

Infographics/Posters

- [Health and Safety Tips for Students](#)
- [We're in This Together poster](#)
- [Keep Our School Safe poster](#)
- [Getting Vaxxed is Going Viral poster](#)
- [Social media cards and posts for students](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

- FAQ for Students in [English](#) and [Español](#)

If you or your parent or guardian has questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, please work with your Services Coordinator and provider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>

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