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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Health Department and healthcare prioritizing vaccinations for 12- to 24-year-olds**

**Eau Claire, WI- July 29, 2021** – COVID-19 case numbers are rising in the Chippewa Valley and the Health Department, along with area healthcare partners, are asking students and young adults to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment today. **Anyone vaccinated this week with Pfizer (a 2-dose series) can be fully vaccinated by the first week of September.** A limited supply of Johnson & Johnson is still available in our area for those 18 years and older, and those individuals will be fully vaccinated just 2 weeks after their single shot.

The 12- to 24-year-old age group is lagging all other age groups in vaccinations, with the lowest number of vaccinated people in the 12- to 15-year-old group (35%). There have been more cases in the under 25 age group than any other age group.

All the area major healthcare systems agree on the importance of vaccinating anyone who is eligible, especially those who are planning to attend in-person learning this fall. HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Mayo Clinic Health System, OakLeaf Surgical Hospital, and Prevea Health jointly provided the following statement:

*"We strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. The 12–24-year-old age group has the lowest number of people vaccinated in Eau Claire County. As this group prepares for getting back to school, it's also important to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is safe and is our best protection against this virus, especially with circulation of the new variants, such as the Delta variant. We understand you may have questions, and that is normal. Please contact your family doctor with any concerns you have."*

For all age groups, anyone who is not vaccinated is still at risk for serious complications from COVID-19. Local hospital partners noted that 25- to 55-year-old individuals who are not vaccinated have been hospitalized in the intensive care unit (ICU) after becoming sick with COVID-19. Eau Claire County has recorded 8 deaths of individuals under the age of 60 from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Nationally, vaccinated people are 20 times less likely to be hospitalized from COVID-19.

**Where can I get vaccinated?**

Many locations (including healthcare clinics and pharmacies) are now offering walk-in or same-day vaccine appointments. You can search for vaccines by zip code and vaccine manufacturer (Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson) at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). The Health Department is also holding a series of vaccine clinics for anyone age 12+ to get the Pfizer vaccine. No appointment, ID, or proof of citizenship is needed, and the vaccine is free.

Vaccine Clinic Date	Location	Time	Vaccine
<b>Thursday, Jul. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Eau Claire City-County Health Department (721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire) enter door C12E on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave and Lake Street)	4pm-6 pm	Pfizer (12+), Moderna (18+), and a limited supply of Johnson & Johnson (18+) vaccines
<b>Thursday, Jul. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Northstar Middle School (Abbe Hill Drive, Eau Claire)	5pm-8pm	Pfizer vaccine (12+)
<b>Friday, Jul. 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Eau Claire County Fair (5530 Fairview Dr., Eau Claire)	1pm-4 pm	Pfizer (12+) and a limited supply of Johnson & Johnson (18+) vaccines
<b>Saturday, Jul. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Eau Claire County Fair (5530 Fairview Dr., Eau Claire)	1pm-4 pm	Pfizer (12+) and a limited supply of Johnson & Johnson (18+) vaccines
<b>Tuesday, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Fall Creek National Night Out (Fall Creek Fire Station, 530 E. Lincoln Avenue, Fall Creek)	4pm-7 pm	Pfizer vaccine (12+)
<b>Tuesday, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Eau Claire National Night Out (Carson Park, 100 Carson Park Dr, Eau Claire)	5:30pm-8 pm	Pfizer vaccine (12+)
<b>Wednesday, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	UWEC Water Street Parking Lot (drive-thru), 101 Chippewa St, Eau Claire - enter on 2nd Ave	4pm-6pm	Pfizer (ages 12+) and a limited supply of Johnson & Johnson (ages 18+)
<b>Thursday, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Eau Claire City-County Health Department (721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire) enter door C12E on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave and Lake Street)	4pm-6 pm	Pfizer (12+), Moderna (18+), and a limited supply of Johnson & Johnson (18+) vaccines
<b>Saturday, Aug. 7</b>	Delong Middle School (2000 Vine St, Eau Claire)	1pm-4pm	Pfizer vaccine (12+)

For a complete vaccine clinic calendar and more information, visit: [bit.ly/covidvaccine-ec](https://bit.ly/covidvaccine-ec) or [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov). Questions? Call the Health Department at 715-839-4718.

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