

Weekly Update

COVID Information-August 18, 2021

BACK TO SCHOOL VACCINATION OPPORTUNITY AND ANTIGEN CONSENT FORM

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As we move forward into the 2021-2022 school year, we are excited to be together in schools across the state. We know the past year has been incredibly challenging and we are grateful for your continued collaboration as we enter the next phase of the pandemic – one that hopefully leads us back to safe, healthy, and supportive school environments for all students.

To ensure that we return in a way that is both safe and allows for us to all learn together, we hope that you, if you have not done so already, consider being vaccinated and ensuring that your student, if eligible, is also vaccinated before the beginning of the school year. Information on the [vaccine for children, 12-17 years old](#) can be found on the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) **website and locations with the available vaccine can be found [here](#)**. All available COVID-19 vaccines, including the Pfizer vaccine, approved specifically for individuals 12-17, provide a high level of protection and are extremely safe in all populations.

If you or your student has not yet received a vaccine, we invite you to join us at our back-to-school-focused vaccination clinic on August 19th and September 9th from 4-8 PM at any of the following locations; please register by clicking the link below:

- [Howard High School of Technology](#) (401 E 12th St., Wilmington, DE 19801)
- [William Penn High School](#) (713 E Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720)

Getting more of our middle and high school population partially or fully vaccinated prior to re-starting the 2021-2022 school year will cut back on the chance that COVID-19 will spread in our schools and once again disrupt learning. Children are at risk for illness *and* hospitalization from COVID-19; and the Delta variant, which is the predominant strain now in Delaware spreads more easily among unvaccinated persons.

Individuals are “fully vaccinated” two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or after one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. As such, we encourage you to come on August 19th or to access the vaccine sooner at a nearby [pharmacy, DPH clinic, primary care provider office, or community site](#), to allow enough time for second doses to be delivered and increase the percentage of fully vaccinated eligible individuals in our schools. Individuals and students who are not eligible for vaccination and/or choose not to be vaccinated should complete the Antigen testing consent form, [HERE](#). This will allow your child to screen for the presence of the COVID-19 virus weekly, while at school. You can find more information about our Antigen testing program at <https://www.christinak12.org/antigen-testing>

Thank you,

Sean Mulrine
Principal

