



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH- Linda Beers, MPH

May 14, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For More Information:**

Andrea Whitmarsh, Public Information Officer, Essex County Health Department  
518-873-3546 | [andrea.whitmarsh@essexcountyny.gov](mailto:andrea.whitmarsh@essexcountyny.gov)

**Essex County Health Department Announces Plans to Vaccinate 12-15 Year Olds**

Elizabethtown, May 14, 2021. Earlier this week, the NYS COVID-19 vaccination program expanded eligibility for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to people in the 12-15 age group. This change followed FDA authorization that was based on safety data from clinical trials supporting expansion to this age group.

The Essex County Health Department (ECHD) has been partnering with local school districts to survey school community members in an effort to gauge interest in school-based vaccine clinics. After an enthusiastic response, ECHD scheduled vaccine clinics for all interested 16-18 year old students at every public school in the county during the last two weeks of May.

With the recent expansion of the age group to 12-15 year olds, ECHD plans to open up clinic appointments for this group at several of the previously scheduled school clinics. "Our schools have graciously provided the space and have agreed to remain open later in the day to allow for parents/guardians to accompany their children to these vaccine appointments," stated Linda Beers, Director of Public Health for Essex County. "A parent, guardian, or adult caregiver must accompany any child 12 through 15 years of age. And these expanded clinics will also be open to anyone 12+ wanting the Pfizer vaccine," Beers added.

"As we look toward summer plans and return to full, in-person learning and extracurricular activities in our schools this fall, vaccination of this age group is a big step toward getting us to that herd immunity threshold," explained Shaun Gilliland, Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors. There are added benefits of vaccination – now and on the horizon. "Fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine after an exposure to COVID-19, so this means far fewer disruptions to your student for school, athletics and all extra-curricular activities." said Beers.

In addition to school-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics, ECHD has a packed schedule of clinic offerings planned for the summer months, including pop-up clinics at breweries, farmers markets, rabies clinics, and other community events throughout the county. Starting May 24 and continuing throughout the month of June, appointments for COVID-19 vaccine will be available every Monday from 11:00am-4:45pm at the ECHD in Elizabethtown. The full schedule



**HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**  
Public Health Unit

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH- Linda Beers, MPH

and registration links is available and updated regularly at [www.co.essex.ny.us/health](http://www.co.essex.ny.us/health) at the Make an Appointment tab.

Other local providers and state-run mass vaccination sites have begun offering Pfizer vaccine to individuals aged 12-15. To find a provider, visit [www.vaccinefinder.org/search](http://www.vaccinefinder.org/search).

Increasingly, the benefits of vaccination are being realized, and Beers noted “we also know there is a lot of excitement about the CDC’s announcement yesterday that fully vaccinated individuals can go unmasked in most situations. As the Governor considers this policy change, we anticipate the continued relaxation of restrictions as more and more people get vaccinated and our case numbers decline”.

###