

Washington State Board of Health
PO Box 47990
Olympia, WA 98501

October 25, 2021

To: Michelle Davis, Executive Director and Chair Keith Grellner

We, the Health Officers of Washington State, acknowledge the power of pediatric vaccination to protect vulnerable children from preventable infectious diseases. We further recognize the critical role that immunization requirements for school entry play in bringing about the high levels of vaccination necessary for this protection.

There exists a rigorous process at the Washington State Board of Health for considering any vaccine for inclusion on the list of vaccines required for school entry. This process involves a thorough review of the data surrounding the vaccine's safety and effectiveness in children, with consideration of nine criteria.¹ Although not specified in the existing criteria, we believe that full FDA approval of a vaccine product should be a prerequisite for consideration of a requirement for child-care or school entry.

We eagerly await the safety and efficacy data for COVID-19 vaccination in children ages 5 to 11 years and we look forward to participating in this process.

The Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) Board of Directors further supports this recommendation.

In health,

Your Washington State Local Health Officers &
WSALPHO Board of Directors

1. Washington State Board of Health Immunization Advisory Committee: Criteria for Reviewing Antigens for Potential Inclusion in WAC 246-105-030:
<https://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/Publications/ImmunizationCriteria-Update2017-Final.pdf>

Cc:

Dr. Umair Shah, Secretary of the Department of Health
Molly Voris, Office of Governor Inslee
Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent, OSPI
Laurie Jenkins, Speaker, House of Representatives
JT Wilcox, Minority Leader, House of Representatives
Andy Billig, Majority Leader, State Senate
John Braun, Republican Leader, State Senate
WSALPHO Board of Directors
Local Health Jurisdiction Health Officers, Administrators
Brynn Brady, Contract Lobbyist, WSALPHO
Eric Johnson, Washington State Association of Counties