## **Pike County Health Department**



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## PCHD News Release PCHD Holding Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 1, 2022 CONTACT: Sharon Bargmann, RN, BSN 217-285-4407 x 125 <u>sbargmann@pikecoilhealth.org</u>

**Pike County, IL** – Pike County Health Department (PCHD) is now offering COVID-19 vaccine to children aged 5-11 years. COVID-19 vaccination clinics for that age group will coincide with PCHD's immunization clinics held February 7 and February 23, 2022.

PCHD will continue to hold Pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month beginning in March. No appointment is needed. Masks are required.

In January 2022, PCHD was notified of 1,172 positive cases of COVID-19, which is the highest number of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began. The average age of those testing positive in January was 34 years old. Of those testing positive in January, 41.47% were vaccinated. However, only 7.76% of those testing positive were up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations. Up to date on vaccinations means that the individual has received their initial vaccination(s) and a booster.

To our knowledge, none of those individuals who are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations have been hospitalized and none have died. Sadly, there have been 12 deaths in the month of January, which is the highest death rate since November 2020 when COVID-19 spread quickly through our nursing homes, killing our most vulnerable population.

As you can see by the statistics mentioned above, vaccinations work! Although those who are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations can still catch the virus, the vaccinations are working to keep those individuals out of hospitals and are preventing death.

Our message has been, and will continue to be:

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated.
- For those vaccinated, get your booster when available to you.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Socially distance.
- Wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth when around others and unable to socially distance.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

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