

*It's
because
we care!*

EMMONS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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News Release

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Attached Artwork:

Omicron Graphic V2

ECPH Encourages COVID-19 Vaccination, Boosters for Adolescents

[LINTON, ND] – Following vaccine booster updates from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) earlier this week, Emmons County Public Health (ECPH) now recommends vaccination for eligible children.

CDC expanded recommendations for the following age groups:

- Booster doses for children ages 12-17
- Booster dose after 5 months for individuals who received a Pfizer vaccine
- Children ages 5-11 who are moderately to severely immunocompromised can receive an additional dose of COVID vaccine after 28 days

“Particularly with the emergence of Omicron throughout North Dakota, vaccinations and boosters are becoming more vital for our younger populations,” said ECPH Executive Director Bev Voller. “When COVID-19 first descended on us, we were primarily concerned about older and vulnerable populations. These individuals are still a primary concern, but what we are seeing as COVID variants become prevalent is that all ages are being infected. You can’t sit back and hope for the best anymore, because COVID-19 appeared to not be as dangerous for youth in 2020.”

[CDC considers you to be moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) if you are, or have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood.
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system.
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge and Wiskott-Aldrich syndromes)

- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response.

Overall, Emmons County has recorded just over 600 total positive COVID-19 tests during the pandemic, with 16 deaths, according to the [North Dakota Department \(NDDOH\) of Health COVID Dashboard](#). NDDOH also recently reported 186 reinfections (Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person at least 90 days after they have previously tested positive) from December 27-29. Reinfections different from breakthrough cases, which are defined as detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person more than 14 days after they have been fully vaccinated.

“Every time a new COVID-19 variant mutates we begin a new learning curve to understand the disease,” said Voller. “Initial reports were that Omicron didn’t display as severe symptoms as Delta, but that it appeared to be more easily transmitted. We are still learning if that is true, or if due to a higher transmission rate, we will have more total severe cases, albeit at a lower rate than Delta. From the beginning, the most challenging part of this pandemic has been how fluid and ever-changing this disease is.”

Vaccination remains your safest and most reliable way to help prevent COVID-related symptoms, hospitalization and death. For more information about your child’s health, ECPH encourages you to talk with a pediatrician or health care provider. To set up a vaccination appointment call Emmons County Public Health (701) 254-4027. ECPH is working with Thrifty White Pharmacy in Linton to batch individuals in an effort to reduce vaccine waste.

For ongoing response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Dakota Department of Health has established a COVID-19 Hotline to help answer your questions. You may call 1-866-207-2880, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with questions. Please note that individuals seeking specific medical advice should contact their healthcare provider.

Emmons County Public Health has provided a variety of COVID-19 information online at <http://www.emmonsnd.com/public-health.html>, and through its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ECPH.gov>. For more info about COVID-19, visit the [ND Department of Health website](#), NDResponse.gov, or [CDC website](#).

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