

July 11, 2022

THURSDAY at 10:30 AM – Early Childhood Leaders Kick Off Kids Vaccine Clinic at the Lighthouse for Children in Downtown Fresno for Babies Six Months and Up!

Fresno, CA – First 5 Fresno County announced today they will host kid-centered Vaccine Clinics at their facility, the Lighthouse for Children (LFC), starting on July 14, 2022. "We are delighted the Lighthouse for Children will play a role in creating accessibility to the COVID-19 vaccine through these recurring vaccine clinics," states Supervisor Brian Pacheco, First 5 Fresno County's Commission Chair. "The LFC serves as a community hub for families with young children to access services and resources to support the first 5 years of life.

The LFC houses a high-quality Child-Development Center (CDC) on the first floor in a unique partnership between First 5 Fresno County and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, which serves as a demonstration childcare site serving children 6 weeks to 5 years old. Other services including speech therapy, developmental screening and referrals, pregnancy/childbirth supports, and various workshops/trainings are offered on the second and third floors.

Over the last two years, parents of young children have been maneuvering through the daily ups and downs of parenting without the added protection of a vaccine for their tiniest members. Fresno County is home to nearly 90,000 children under five and working parents have had to find alternative childcare or take time off from work to care for children who have tested positive or have been directly exposed to COVID-19. As stated by Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Jim A. Yovino, "The vaccine will definitely make a difference in our schools and community – and will ultimately help to further reduce COVID-19 transmission rates amongst Fresno County's children and families."

First 5 Fresno County Executive Director Fabiola González said, "We have been waiting for the approval of this vaccine for a long time and cannot say enough about how vital this breakthrough is for parents, grandparents, childcare providers, and for the wellbeing of our entire community! We are thrilled to host an onsite vaccination clinic that will welcome families with young children without needing an appointment to get their babies vaccinated!"

The vaccination clinic will be in partnership with UCSF Fresno COVID-19 Equity Project (CEP) and will run in time for children to be fully vaccinated at the start of August. "COVID-19 vaccines are now available to everyone six months and older. We are pleased to partner with First 5 Fresno County and the County to make vaccines more readily available to children and families," said Kenny Banh, MD, UCSF Fresno Assistant Dean and Medical Director of the Mobile Heal COVID-19 Equity Project. "Vaccines are safe and effective for all approved to get them. Vaccinating children protects them from the worst outcomes of COVID-19 and helps protect our community, especially those most susceptible to the virus."

The clinic will be walk-in; no appointments or insurance are needed for vaccinating children and families. Thursday's clinic will begin at 8 am and run until 1pm. The clinic will be recurring at the Lighthouse for Children throughout the summer and fall. Families are encouraged to speak with their child's primary doctor for more information about vaccines.

WHAT: Kick Off Kids Vaccine Clinic at the Lighthouse for Children in Downtown Fresno for Babies Six Months and Up!

WHEN: Thursday, July 14th at 10:30 AM – Press Conference, 2405 Tulare St, Fresno CA 93721

WHO: Fabiola González (First 5 Fresno County Executive Director) Brian Pacheco (Fresno County Supervisor & First 5 Fresno County Commission Chair) Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher (Fresno County Superintendent of Schools) LFC Child Development Center Staff, UCSF COVID-19 Equity Project

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About First 5 Fresno County: At First 5 Fresno County we believe that children thrive when their families thrive. We invest in and partner with public, private & community benefit agencies that serve young children and families—created in 1998 due to the passage of Proposition 10.