**Sample Letter (Ages 12+ COVID Vaccine)**

**Expanded ages for COVID-19 vaccine**

[Insert date]

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In Washington State, children ages 12 years and older can now get vaccinated against COVID-19. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was approved by the federal government on May 12, 2021 for expanded ages. The same day, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup approved the Pfizer vaccine for expanded use in Washington state. This means you can schedule your children who are 12 and older for COVID-19 vaccination.

The Department of Health and the [school/school district] recommend eligible children get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible so they can return to normal activities such as in-person learning, sports, and visiting friends.

Parents/guardians can look for eligible vaccine appointments for their children by going on <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov/> and searching for vaccine locations in their area. Here are a few important notes:

* Children ages 12-17 can only get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The other two vaccines in the U.S. are only available for ages 18 and older.
* The Pfizer vaccine is given in two doses, spaced at least three weeks apart.
* Check with the vaccination site on how you will need to provide consent for vaccinating a minor.
* Follow the vaccination site rules for protecting yourself and others.
* In most cases, children can receive other required vaccines the same day as their COVID-19 vaccination. This supports families who need to catch up on immunizations for the next school year.

To prepare for the next school year, we encourage parents to schedule wellness visits with their health care provider early. Check what vaccines your child may be missing at wa.MyIR.net.

The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective in adolescents 12 and up. Just like adults, children may experience some common side effects for 1 to 3 days after vaccination, including sore arm, tiredness, or headache. If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccination, we suggest talking with your health care provider.

Sincerely,