PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE VACCINE SITES READY TO VACCINATE AGES 12 TO 15 THURSDAY, MAY 13

Includes Site at Gila River Arena in Glendale, Arizona



Appointments for ages 12- 15 for vaccination starts at 8 a.m. Thursday at podvaccine.azdhs.gov

GLENDALE, AZ (May 12, 2021)- Arizona-run vaccination sites in the Phoenix area, Tucson, Yuma, and Flagstaff are ready to begin vaccinating children 12 to 15 years old on Thursday, May 13, following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This includes the vaccination site at Gila River Arena in Glendale, Arizona.

"The COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and free – and they're our best shot to end this pandemic and return to the things we've missed. We're moving quickly to empower parents and guardians to get this protection for their children," Governor Doug Ducey said. "Millions of Arizonans have already received the COVID-19 vaccine. Soon, kids ages 12 to 15 years old will now be eligible to get vaccinated and state vaccine sites are ready to serve them."

Arizona has nearly 400,000 youths ages 12 to 15. To date, 5,383,508 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to 3,068,234 individuals, with 2,517,206 now fully vaccinated.

The Food and Drug Administration authorized the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for age 12-15 on Monday. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and CDC followed suit today with their recommendation to vaccinate those 12 and older. The recommendation applies only to the Pfizer vaccine,

which now is available to ages 16 and older. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are authorized for those 18 and older.

“We’re delighted to be able to welcome these young people to state-run mass-vaccination sites starting Thursday,” said Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Director Dr. Cara Christ. “These safe, highly effective, and free vaccines are our best shot at returning to normal, and having more vaccinated individuals gives COVID-19 less of a chance of spreading.”

Once CDC makes the recommendation, parents and guardians may bring those ages 12 to 15 to state vaccination sites starting Thursday, which also is the day when many pharmacies and other providers with Pfizer plan to begin vaccinating this age group. The ADHS vaccine finder available at azdhs.gov/FindVaccine allows visitors to filter locations by vaccine type.

ADHS is coordinating with rural counties that until now have received only the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines so 12- to 15-year-olds can get vaccinated. A parent or guardian must accompany the child and sign a consent form in person and includes an attestation that the child is at least 12 years old. No identification is required for the child. Place of permanent residence isn’t a factor in whether someone can be vaccinated at a state site.

Parents and guardians also will be able to register those ages 12 to 15 for vaccination starting at 8 a.m. Thursday by visiting podvaccine.azdhs.gov or calling 844-542-8201 to be connected with someone who can assist in English or Spanish. Appointments aren’t required for state-run sites, but they are a way to reduce the length of a visit because registration is taken care of in advance.

COVID-19 continues to infect and cause death in Arizonans, though case numbers, percent positivity, intensive care unit use, and in-patient hospital bed use have been relatively stable since March. Today, ADHS added 683 cases and 19 deaths to its COVID-19 data dashboard.

Many sites across Arizona now offer COVID-19 vaccines, including grocery store pharmacies and standalone pharmacies. Doctors’ offices and other neighborhood healthcare providers can order vaccine directly from the CDC.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination, please visit azdhs.gov/COVID19Vaccines.

ASM Global Quote

“As the managers of Gila River Arena, and in conjunction with our industry leading Venue Shield protective program, ASM Global being called upon to help move the needle and activate our resources, and local partnerships, to take one step closer to getting our business and lives back to normal, is something we are immensely proud to participate in.” said Dale Adams, General Manager for Gila River Arena.

Gila River Arena has put in place a series of initiatives to create a safe environment for all fans who return to the arena. A variety of safety measures were implemented upon reopening at the beginning of 2021 including full digital ticketing, cashless transactions, pre-paid touchless parking, the installation of sanitizer stations throughout the venue, enhanced sanitation measures and additional food preparation protocols at all concessions, ingress, egress, fan flow circulation, and a no bag policy. All fans and arena employees are advised to wear a mask and no smoking will be allowed inside on patios. For a complete list of Gila River Arena safety measures, please visit: http://www.gilariverarena.com/plan-your-visit/covid-19

In addition, Gila River Arena will be equipped with VenueShield, a comprehensive and best-in-class program that has been deployed at more than 325 ASM Global facilities around the world. VenueShield provides the highest levels of cleanliness and safety, while inspiring consumer confidence, all in partnership with leading medical professionals, industry experts and public health officials. VenueShield will provide the most advanced hygienic safeguards that serve ASM Global's clients, guests, staff, teams, talent and all other visitors. All policies will be aligned with - and informed by - public health authorities, medical and industry experts.

For a full list of upcoming events at Gila River Arena, please visit: http://www.gilariverarena.com/events.

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