

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

### **June 30, 2022**

This is Lang Xiong at the Hmong American Friendship Association with an update on the coronavirus pandemic. The big news this month is that the FDA and CDC have given emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine for children under 5. This means that all children – 6 months and up – can be vaccinated.

Some parents think that young children don't need to be vaccinated because even if they get COVID, they won't get very sick. While this is true for most children, some become seriously ill. Some have died. COVID is far more dangerous – and more contagious – than the flu. Also, as we're learning more and more about COVID, we know that some people may have long-term complications that could affect their health for many years to come.

Here are some other reasons to consider vaccination for you and all of your children:

First, getting kids vaccinated helps to protect everyone. Young kids who are exposed to COVID can infect other people. The more people who are vaccinated, the less transmission throughout the community.

Second, COVID vaccines often hurt less than other vaccines. Children receive one tenth of the adult dose, which means less liquid. The shots are very quick and hurt less than other vaccines that have more liquid.

Third, side effects from the vaccine tend to be milder in children. Most kids tolerate the shots very well.

COVID hospitalizations are rising again. Almost 4,800 people are hospitalized in the U.S. with COVID every day. Over a million people have died. Vaccinating as many people as possible is the best way to bring these numbers down.

We at the Hmong American Friendship Association want to do our part. We are hosting another vaccine clinic with Children's Community Health Plan on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be vaccinating those who are six months old and up! For more information, see our Facebook page.

If you have questions, please call your pediatrician or reach out to our warmline at 414-465-9504. If you or your family members need a COVID-19 vaccination or a booster, we hope to see you on July 9<sup>th</sup>!