Minor Consent Statement

May 25, 2021

Under Oregon law, minors 15 and older have the legal authority to consent to medical treatment, including vaccinations, provided by a physician, physician assistant, naturopath, nurse practitioner, dentist or optometrist, or other professionals operating under the license of or at the direction of these providers, without the consent of a parent or guardian. (ORS 109.640)

At this time, the only COVID-19 vaccine that has received emergency use authorization for individuals under age 18 is the Pfizer vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for use in individuals 12 and above. Most locations where COVID-19 vaccinations are provided have oversight by a medical provider on the list noted above and therefore minors 15 and older can consent to vaccination.

The Oregon Health Authority supports the rights of minors 15 and older to consent to COVID-19 vaccination without parental consent.

OHA prohibits a provider listed above, or anyone operating under the license of or at the direction of these providers, from requiring parental consent for a minor age 15 or older, if that minor is exercising their right to consent to vaccination. A provider may, but is not required to, inform a parent or guardian about the vaccination (ORS 109.650).

Many COVID-19 vaccinations are being provided by pharmacists. Pharmacists are not on the list of providers who can treat minors 15 and older without parental consent under Oregon law and so most pharmacies will require parental or guardian consent, which can be verbal or written. However, some pharmacists may operate at the direction of a provider listed under ORS 109.640, and in this case the pharmacist is prohibited from requiring parental or guardian consent for a minor 15 or older who is consenting to a COVID-19 vaccination. See our Frequently Asked Questions for more information about 12 to 17-year-old vaccine access.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhssoha.state.or.us.