



LITTLE RED RIVER CREE NATION

February 23rd, 2021.

Re: COVID-19 Vaccine and Children

To Nation Residents and Members,

There has been hesitancy about taking the COVID-19 vaccine because children 17 years old and under cannot get it yet.

This is what I can tell you:

- The reason why children cannot take this vaccine yet is because there were no children included in the first clinical trials,
- Why weren't they included? It is not ethical. Whenever there are new drugs made, the drug companies must first do clinical trials with adults. It is the law.
- Once the drug, or vaccine, is deemed safe in adults then the companies can start new trials with more vulnerable populations such as children.
- Because the adult clinical trials found the vaccine was safe and effective for adults, Moderna announced December 2020 they would start planning trials for children.
- Moderna is planning clinical trials with children aged 12-17 years old first. They must study:
 - How much vaccine to give (the dose)
 - Safety, for example if the side effects will be the same
 - How effective the vaccine will be

Just a reminder. Children do very well when they have COVID. They tend to have very mild symptoms, or no symptoms at all. They also do not spread COVID-19 as easily as adults. At this time, children are not the priority for this vaccine.

Adults, especially those with diabetes, heart and lung issues, or frail elders are the ones who will benefit the most from this vaccine. Adults also spread the virus more easily to their friends and family, so if you know someone in this group, you can protect them by getting vaccinated.

Please do not put off getting this vaccine because your kids cannot get it yet. They need the adults to set an example and show them to take responsibility for other people in their community.

Thank you,

LRRCN Emergency Management Team

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