



MEDIA ADVISORY

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

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Gov. Whitmer and Grand Rapids' new COVID-19 volunteer vaccination student ambassadors to get shots in arms Thursday from Michigan Chief Medical Executive Dr. Khaldun, West Michigan Vaccine Clinic staff at DeVos Place
GRPS Supt. Dr. Roby will introduce squad of teen leaders who are encouraging their peers to get vaccinated and Gov. Whitmer will thank them for their service

WHEN: 1:15 p.m. Thursday, April 29, 2021

WHO: Michigan Gov. **Gretchen Whitmer**
Michigan Chief Medical Executive **Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun**
Spectrum Health System President and CEO **Tina Freese Decker**
Dr. Leadriane Roby, Superintendent of Schools, Grand Rapids Public Schools
Six Grand Rapids Public Schools teens who have volunteered to serve as Protect Michigan Commission COVID-19 student ambassadors with the aim of encouraging their peers to get vaccinated

WHERE: West Michigan Vaccine Clinic, **DeVos Place**, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, in Grand Rapids. This is an **IN-PERSON** event in the DeVos Place Exhibit Hall C with limited capacity. **To attend, PLEASE RSVP:** nowlin@gudmarketing.com.

Media who cannot attend can watch the event via livestream at:

<https://www.facebook.com/michiganhhs/>

Media can park at the Government Center Ramp across the street from DeVos Place. Media must enter through the **DeVos Place Monroe** entrance, where they will immediately proceed to complete a health and security screening just beyond the entrance.

Check-in will open at **12:15 p.m.** We ask media to please plan to **arrive no later than 12:45 p.m.** to accommodate the health and security screening required to enter DeVos Place. Spectrum Health System and Protect Michigan Commission staff will be on-site at check-in to direct media to the news conference site.

VISUALS: Media will be allowed only into the news conference site. From this location they can get b-roll of Gov. Whitmer and the Grand Rapids teenagers as they receive their COVID-19 vaccinations. A brief Q&A with Gov. Whitmer and Dr. Khaldun will precede the vaccination process. The students also will be available for interviews with media after the event.

NOTE: Face coverings are required and social distancing protocols will be maintained.

WHAT: To promote awareness that Michigan youth are among the fastest-growing segment of Michigan's population at risk of contracting COVID-19 and to encourage teenagers age 16 and older who are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, Gov. Whitmer will receive her second dose of the Pfizer vaccination from Michigan Chief Medical Executive Khaldun. She will be joined by the six Grand Rapids Public School students who are receiving their first dose of the Pfizer vaccinations from staff who are coordinating through a joint effort by Kent County, Spectrum Health, Mercy Health and Vaccinate West Michigan.

The students have volunteered to serve as Protect Michigan Commission COVID-19 ambassadors who will urge their peers to get vaccinated and continue to practice preventative measures such as properly wearing masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of the virus until the vast majority of people have been vaccinated.

Individuals 16 and 17 years of age must receive the Pfizer vaccine only. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are only recommended for those 18 years and older. Minors ages 16 and 17 will need a parent or legal guardian to accompany them to their appointment in order to provide consent to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. In some counties, the parent or legal guardian may be able to provide consent through a note or a phone call that has been verified by two nurses. Check with the vaccine provider first to see if this is an option where you live.

INFO: Gov. Whitmer created the **Protect Michigan Commission** in January. The appointees represent a diverse array of industries, professions and backgrounds. Housed within MDHHS, they are charged with helping to ensure every Michigander has a plan to get vaccinated against COVID-19 once the opportunity becomes available. Their goal is facilitating at least 100,000 shots in arms daily. The most recent [vaccine prioritization guidelines](#) can be found on [Michigan's COVID-19 website](#).