



OFFICE OF HEAD START
***“ACF and CDC Early Childhood
Vaccine Priority –
Follow up Discussion”***



**Federal Retail
Pharmacy Program 2021**



VACCINE PRIORITY FOR CHILD CARE, HEAD START, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS



Office of Head Start

President Biden Announces Vaccine Priority for Child Care, Head Start, and Early Childhood Settings

On March 1, 2021, President Biden announced that he is directing states to prioritize teachers, early educators, and child care staff for COVID-19 vaccination. He issued a challenge to states to provide at least the first vaccine dose to teachers and early educators by the end of the month. This includes pre-kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, people who work in child care centers, family child care providers, and Head Start and Early Head Start program staff. Vaccines will be available in pharmacy locations. Staff in child care, Head Start, and other early childhood settings will be able to sign up for appointments.



TODAY'S DISCUSSION:

- ❑ COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- ❑ The CDC Teacher, School Staff, Head Start Staff, and Child Care Workers Vaccination Program → *key takeaways from Friday's CDC webinar*
 - Available CDC resources
 - Federal Retail Pharmacy Program
- ❑ How Head Start Grantees Can Best Support the Work
 - Understanding vaccine hesitancy
 - Using Head Start dollars to support the vaccine effort
 - Examples from the field
- ❑ Looking ahead
- ❑ Q & A



Today's Presenters



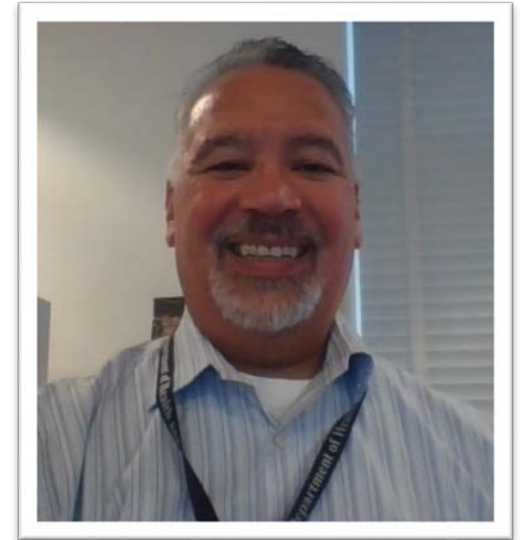
Dr. Bernadine Futrell
Office of Head Start,
Director



Ann Linehan
Office of Head Start,
Deputy Director

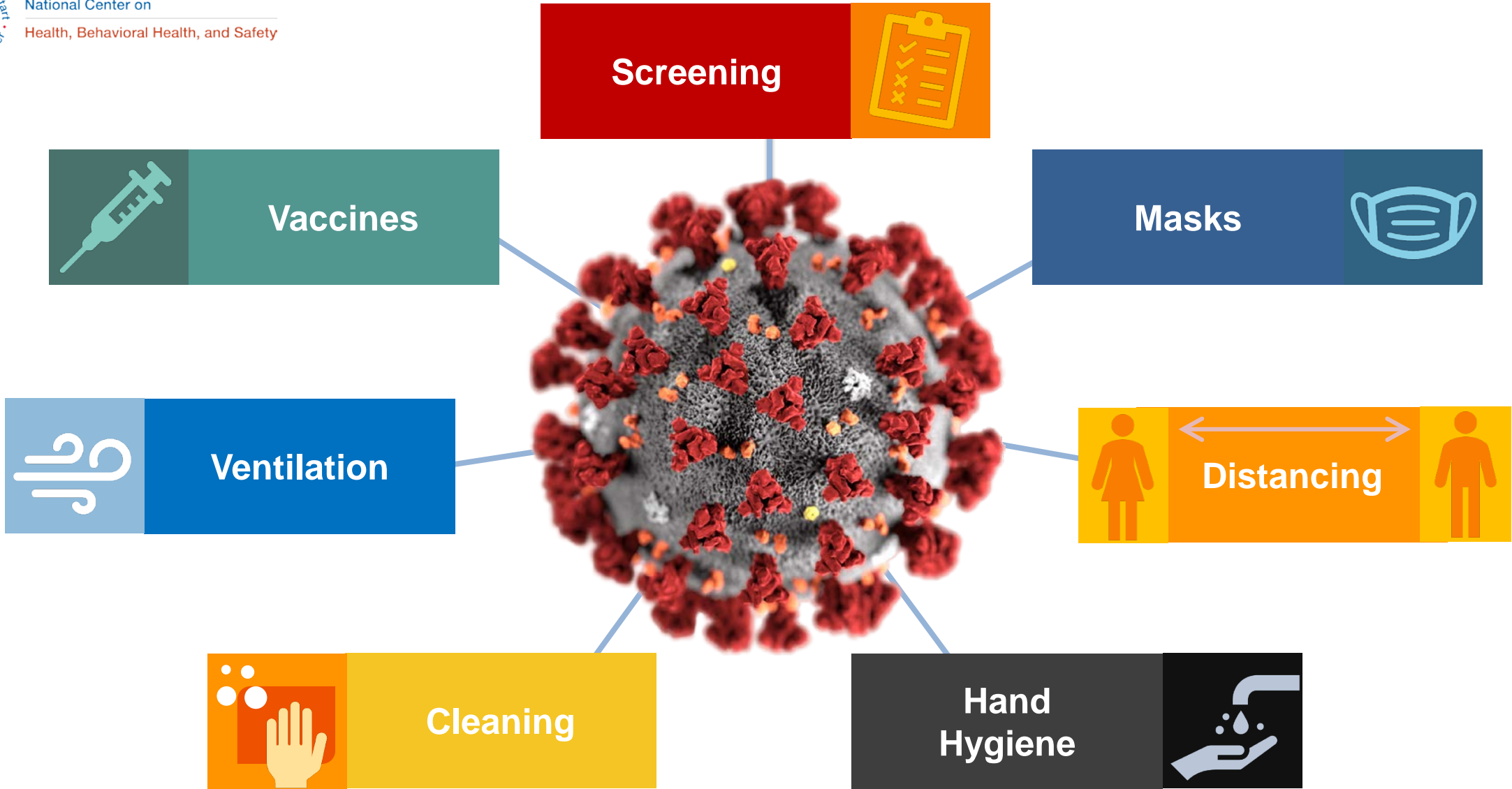


Dr. Kathleen Ethier
CDC Lead, Teacher,
School Staff, and Child
Care Workers Vaccination
Program
Vaccine Task Force
CDC COVID-19 Response



Dr. Marco Beltran
Health Lead
Senior Program Specialist







KEY FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION

- ❑ Vaccines will help stop the spread of the viruses
- ❑ All vaccines help the body make a supply of “memory” cells that will remember how to fight that virus in the future
- ❑ Vaccines are not approved for children, but vaccinating adults also protects children from getting COVID-19
- ❑ Adhere to state, tribal, and local plans for vaccinating teachers and other Head Start and Early Head Start staff



People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated



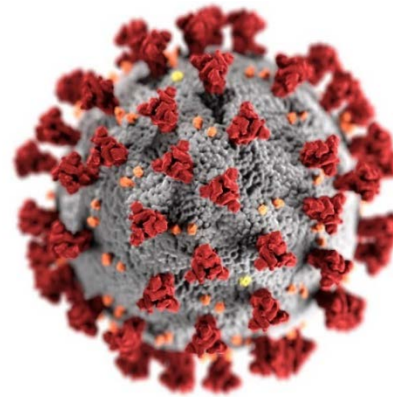
COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-myths.html>



Kathleen A. Ethier, Ph.D.

LEAD, TEACHER, SCHOOL STAFF, AND
CHILD CARE WORKERS VACCINATION PROGRAM
VACCINE TASK FORCE
CDC COVID-19 RESPONSE



Office of Head Start

ACF and CDC Early Childhood Vaccine Priority
Stakeholder Webinar

Friday, March 12, 2021
1–2 p.m. ET

[Register Online Now!](#)

cdc.gov/coronavirus



TEACHER, SCHOOL STAFF, HEAD START STAFF, & CHILD CARE WORKERS VACCINATION PROGRAM

What we have to do:

Activate and support federal and non-federal partners

Develop communication tools

Gather data sources for monitoring and evaluation

What will happen as a result:

Direct vaccine-ready school, Head Start, and child care workers to available vaccine

Build vaccine confidence among hesitant school, Head Start, and child care staff

Who needs to get ready to provide vaccine:

State vaccination programs

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program




RESOURCES



Teachers, School Staff, and Childcare Workers: How to Get Vaccinated

On March 2nd, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a directive that all states immediately make eligible teachers, school staff, and childcare workers for COVID-19 vaccination across all vaccination providers.

Additionally, pharmacy locations that are part of CDC's Federal Retail Pharmacy Program are now giving priority to school staff and childcare workers for COVID-19 vaccination during the month of March.



Protect Against COVID-19.

A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available. www.cdc.gov

Who can get vaccinated?

- Teachers and staff in
- Pre-K-12 schools
- Childcare centers
- Head Start and Early Head Start programs
- Licensed childcare providers, including center-based and family care providers
- Classroom aides
- Bus drivers
- Janitors
- Counselors
- Administration staff
- Cafeteria workers
- Substitute teachers


In addition to existing state and local COVID-19 vaccination sites, teachers and staff in pre-Kindergarten to grade 12 (pre-K-12 schools) and childcare workers will be able to sign up for an appointment at more than 9,000 participating pharmacy locations nationwide.

How do I schedule a vaccine appointment?

Teachers, school staff, and childcare workers who are interested in getting vaccinated should:

- Visit VaccineFinder.org to find out where vaccine is available in your community.
- Visit the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](http://FederalRetailPharmacyProgram) website to see which pharmacies are participating in your state. Most pharmacy partners are using online scheduling systems to schedule vaccination appointments for those eligible based on their limited vaccine supply. Check your local pharmacy's website to sign up.
- Contact your [state health department's website](http://state.health.department's.website) to find additional providers in your area.



Visit [CDC's Schools and Child Care Programs page](http://CDC's.Schools.and.Child.Care.Programs.page) for more information on school reopening and strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines

CS00000-A 03/08/21

A safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is now available.

Panel 1: "I didn't see you as all year old! Where were you?" "I worked late at the daycare. After work, I went straight over to the clinic to get my COVID-19 vaccine."

Panel 2: "You got your vaccine? Were you afraid?" "I was a little nervous, so I called my brother. He's a doctor at the family health clinic."

Panel 3: "He said I might have a sore arm, get a sore throat, or get a mild fever." "These won't last long—just a few days—and it's a sign that the vaccine is working!"

Panel 4: "But these vaccines are so new! Are they safe?" "I learned from my brother and the nurse at the clinic that the vaccines are tested very carefully to make sure they are safe and effective."



I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE!

#SLEEVEUP TO FIGHT COVID-19

Protect Against COVID-19.

A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available. www.cdc.gov

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Communicate with your members and constituents through your regular channels
- Promote and share resources
- Support Head Start staff on social media:

#SleeveUp4HeadStart



A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available.

www.cdc.gov



FEDERAL RETAIL PHARMACY PROGRAM

- ❑ **21** national pharmacy partners and network administrators enrolled
- ❑ Provides a COVID-19 vaccination provider network of over **40,000** store locations
- ❑ Program is being implemented incrementally based on supply available.
 - Incremental roll out in close coordination with jurisdictions
 - Initial pharmacy partners were selected based on their ability to reach select target populations and serve socially vulnerable populations
- ❑ As supply increases, additional pharmacy locations will be allocated vaccine, until the entire network is activated
- ❑ Network capabilities include retail, mobile, offsite vaccination support



LIST OF FEDERAL PHARMACY PARTNERS

Chain Partners

1. Walgreens (incl. Duane Reade)
2. CVS Pharmacy, Inc. (incl. Long's)
3. Walmart, Inc. (incl. Sam's Club)
4. Rite Aid Corp.
5. Kroger Co. (incl. Kroger, Harris Teeter, Fred Meyer, Frys, Ralphs, King Soopers, Smiths, City Market, Dillons, Marianos, Pick-n-Save, Copps, Metro Market)
6. Publix Super Markets, Inc.
7. Costco Wholesale Corp.
8. Hy-Vee, Inc.
9. Meijer Inc.
10. H-E-B, LP
11. Albertsons Companies, Inc. (incl. Osco, Jewel-Osco, Albertsons, Albertsons Market, Safeway, Tom Thumb, Star Market, Shaws, Haggen, Acme, Randalls, Carrs, Market Street, United, Vons, Pavilions, Amigos, Lucky's, Pak n Save, Sav-On)
12. Retail Business Services, LLC (incl. Food Lion, Giant Food, The Giant Company, Hannaford Bros Co, Stop & Shop)
13. Winn-Dixie Stores Inc. (incl. Winn-Dixie, Harveys, Fresco Y mas)

Networks

1. Topco Associates, LLC (incl. Acme Fresh Markets, Associated Food Stores, Big-Y Pharmacy and Wellness Center, Brookshire's Pharmacy, Super One Pharmacy, FRESH by Brookshire's Pharmacy, Coborn's Pharmacy, Cash Wise Pharmacy, MarketPlace Pharmacy, Giant Eagle, Hartig Drug Company, King Kullen, Food City Pharmacy, Ingles Pharmacy, Raley's, Bel Air, Nob Hill Pharmacies, Save Mart Pharmacies, Lucky Pharmacies, SpartanNash, Price Chopper, Market 32, Tops Friendly Markets, ShopRite, Wegmans, Weis Markets, Inc.)
2. CPESN USA, LLC
3. Good Neighbor Pharmacy and AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation's pharmacy services administrative organization (PSAO), Elevate Provider
4. Health Mart Systems, Inc.
5. LeaderNET and Medicine Shoppe, Cardinal Health's PSAOs
6. Managed Health Care Associates** (long-term care and retail)
7. GeriMed** (long-term care and retail)
8. Innovatix** (long-term care)

*Pharmacy networks represent independent pharmacies and smaller regional chains

**Long-term care pharmacy partners



ELIGIBILITY IMPLEMENTATION

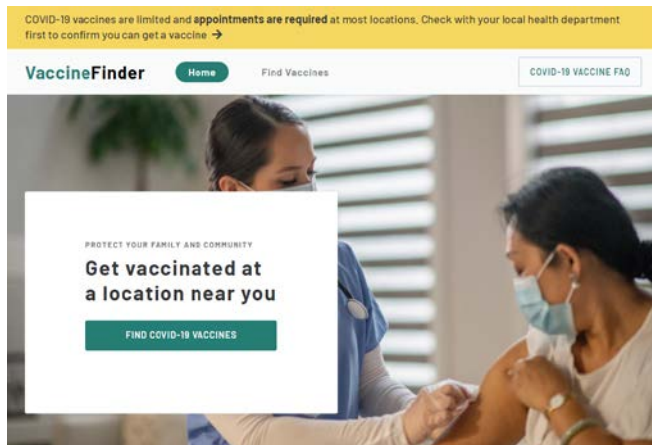
- Pharmacies are asked to prioritize unbooked vaccination slots **for teachers, school staff, Head Start, and child care workers.** Pharmacies are encouraged to honor all existing appointments for first and second doses, and clinics within communities that they may be supporting.
- To ensure that all doses on hand are administered, pharmacies may choose to expand schedulers for slots not booked to those in **existing priority groups provided by jurisdictions.**
- Screeners and schedulers should all be updated now



HOW DO I SCHEDULE A VACCINE APPOINTMENT?

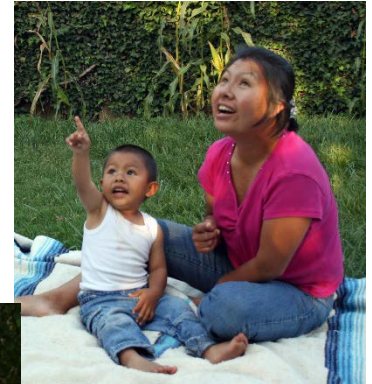
Teachers, school staff, Head Start staff, and child care workers who are interested in getting vaccinated should:

- ❑ Visit the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) website to see which pharmacies are participating in your state. Most pharmacy partners are using online scheduling systems to schedule vaccination appointments for those eligible based on their limited vaccine supply. Check your local pharmacy's website to sign up.
- ❑ Visit [VaccineFinder.org](#) to find out where vaccine is available in your community.
- ❑ Contact your [state health department's](#) website to find additional providers in your area.



HOW HEAD START GRANTEES CAN BEST SUPPORT THE WORK

- ✓ **Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy**
- ✓ **Using Head Start dollars to support the vaccine effort**
- ✓ **Examples from the field**



ACTIONS PROGRAMS CAN TAKE TO ENSURE GOOD EXPERIENCES

✓ **Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy**

- Find trusted leaders; confidence in community
 - The work on the local level is vital
 - Toolkit / Materials available



ACTIONS PROGRAMS CAN TAKE TO ENSURE GOOD EXPERIENCES

COVID-19

ACT NOW!



Home Your Health Vaccines Cases & Data Work & School Healthcare Workers Health Depts More

Vaccines

- Key Things to Know +
- Benefits of Getting Vaccinated +
- Information for Different Groups +
- Your Vaccine Appointment +
- Different Vaccines +
- Vaccine Safety & Monitoring +
- Ensuring Vaccines Work +
- How Vaccines Get to You +
- Communication Resources -
- Toolkits -
 - For Essential Workers
 - For Community-Based Organizations
 - For School Staff & Childcare Workers

COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Childcare Programs

Information for school districts, administrators, teachers, school staff, and other education and childcare professionals

Updated Mar. 8, 2021 Languages Print

CDC will continue to add more materials to this toolkit. Please check back frequently for updates.

Pharmacy locations that are part of CDC's Federal Retail Pharmacy Program are prioritizing school staff and childcare workers for COVID-19 vaccination during the month of March.

On This Page

- How to Communicate with Staff Printable Stickers
- Planning for Staff Vaccination Social Media Messages
- Materials for Communicating with Staff Social Media Graphics
- Digital and Print Communication Resources

Teachers, school staff and childcare workers across the nation are now eligible to receive vaccines to help protect them against COVID-19. On March 2, 2021



How to Communicate with Staff

- Adapt [key messages](#) to the language, tone, and format that will resonate with your school district or childcare program. You know what works best for your staff.
- Customize the template letter and give or email a copy to your staff to introduce your COVID-19 vaccine educational activities and explain how staff can get vaccinated.
- Organize a [COVID-19 vaccine presentation](#) [3.7 MB, 16 pages] (also available in [Spanish](#) [4 MB]) for your staff or organization and promote it via digital and employee communication channels. Record and send out presentations via email or post on the school intranet/website.
 - If you are able, organize a virtual presentation. If not, organize an in-person presentation following COVID-19 safety precautions. Examples for where you might provide this presentation:
 - School board meetings or organization town halls
 - Teacher workday meetings
 - Regular staff meetings
 - Have conversations with staff about the currently available COVID-19 vaccines, and use strategies identified during staff discussions to make [vaccine confidence](#) visible in your schools and childcare programs.
 - Ask if your [local health department](#) or a local clinician group or health educators can provide a speaker if you do not have a health educator or school nurse on staff.
- Continue to educate your workforce via articles, blog posts, and social media messages. Tailor information for your staff and include graphics if you can.
- Share regular updates on local community COVID-19 vaccination efforts through in-person or virtual staff meetings, a staff newsletter or email blast, or through regular communications with teacher or staff unions. Create or share social media posts on your social media handles.
- Have open discussions. Create and publicize a feedback mechanism for staff members to ask questions about COVID-19 vaccination (email inbox, phone number, point of contact).
 - Acknowledge that certain communities and groups have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 infections and severe outcomes, and that some staff might have had previous experiences that affect their trust and confidence in the health system.
 - Provide accurate information for staff about the [benefits](#), [safety](#), [side effects](#) and [vaccine effectiveness](#).
- Encourage social support. Invite your staff to wear [stickers](#) once they have been vaccinated and post vaccination selfies on social media. Encourage them to use the hashtag #sleeveupforschools, #sleeveupforchildcare or #sleeveupforheadstart and tag your school, district, or program.

Coordinate with Your Local Health Department

If you are not already working with your local health department, consider reaching out for assistance. The health department's immunization program can help coordinate vaccination clinics, provide speakers for presentations, and offer other types of expertise.



ACTIONS PROGRAMS CAN TAKE TO ENSURE GOOD EXPERIENCES

- ✓ **Adapt key messages** to the language, tone, and format that will resonate with your program. You know what works best for your staff.
- ✓ **Continue to educate your staff** via articles, blog posts, and social media messages. Tailor information for your staff and include graphics if you can.
- ✓ **Share regular updates on local community COVID-19 vaccination efforts** through in-person or virtual staff meetings, a staff newsletter or email blast, or through regular communications with teacher or staff unions. Create or share social media posts on your social media handles.
- ✓ **Have open discussions.** Create and publicize a feedback mechanism for staff members to ask questions about COVID-19 vaccination (email inbox, phone number, point of contact).
- ✓ For those seeking ideas, we **encourage you to go to MyPeers** and engage with others in the community to come up with strategies to engage staff.



ACTIONS PROGRAMS CAN TAKE TO ENSURE GOOD EXPERIENCES

✓ **Using Head Start dollars to support the vaccine effort**

Although staff are not charged for the vaccine, programs are encouraged to make every effort to lessen the financial impacts to staff as they get their COVID-19 vaccinations.

As a program, you can provide:

- Paid time off or other paid leave for the time spent receiving their vaccination
- Sick leave or other paid leave if staff members experience side effects post-vaccination
- Transportation assistance to vaccination locations
- Temporary coverage to allow absence from the workplace for vaccination



EXAMPLE FROM THE FIELD:

Several Grantee Vaccination Sites

Southern Oregon Child & Family Council Head Start (*Central Point, OR*) Head Start nurse **Dixie Ramsay** administered the shots to workers from Head Start and other organizations that work with local families.

San Joaquin County Office of Education vaccination site since February

The Intermediate School Districts (*Lansing, Michigan*) vaccine sites for school district employees [and some other ECE staff from the county]

Comprehensive Community Action (*Warwick, RI*) vaccination site for staff

Lake Family Resource Center (*Kelseyville, CA*) hosted “vaccination day” and distributed over 500 vaccinations for the community

Stanislaus County Office of Education working w/9 local school districts to become a vaccination site

Tri-County’s Community Action Program’s Health Center (*Johnston, RI*)

Easy Bay Community Action Program (*Newport, RI*) they’re also a testing site

LACOE (*Los Angeles, CA*) partnering with Children’s Hospital and Baldwin Park Unified School District is partnering with Kaiser to become vaccination satellite sites

Clayton Early Learning (*Denver, CO*) held two COVID-19 vaccine events that included staff, families, and community members. They also used this time to recruit and hand out food/supplies to those in need.

Southeast Kansas CAP (*Girard, Kansas*) operating as a vaccination center for community members and SEK-CAP staff, from their Central Office Location

Capitol Region Education Council (*Hartford, CT*) distributed 1,000 vaccines over a weekend in early March.



EXAMPLE FROM THE FIELD: Grantee Vaccination Sites

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/enrollment-administering-covid-19-vaccine-shots>

The screenshot shows the CMS.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About CMS, Newsroom, Archive, Help, and Print. Below this is the CMS.gov logo and the text 'Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. A horizontal menu contains several categories: Medicare, Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination, Private Insurance, Innovation Center, Regulations & Guidance, Research, Statistics, Data & Systems, and Outreach & Education. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Medicare > COVID-19 > Enrollment for Administering COVID-19 Vaccine Shots. The left sidebar is titled 'COVID-19' and lists several links: Enrollment for Administering COVID-19 Vaccine Shots, Coding for COVID-19 Vaccine Shots, Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment, Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Administration, SNF: Enforcement Discretion Relating to Certain Pharmacy Billing, Beneficiary Incentives for COVID-19 Vaccine Shots, and CMS Quality Reporting for COVID-19 Vaccine Shots. The main content area is titled 'Enrollment for Administering COVID-19 Vaccine Shots' and contains a message box stating: 'This page is for health care providers. If you're a person with Medicare, learn more about your Medicare coverage for COVID-19 vaccines. State governments will handle the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Look for updates from your state or governor as more doses of the vaccine become available for additional priority groups. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine progress.' Below the message box, there are two paragraphs of text: 'Review provider enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP information in the State Medicaid Plans toolkit' and 'Review enrollment information for health insurance issuers and Medicare Advantage plans (PDF)'. At the bottom, there is a note: '*New* View the Enroll in Medicare to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine Shots: Information for Health Care Providers video for an overview of the enrollment process and requirements.'

EXAMPLE FROM THE FIELD:

Grantee Vaccination Sites - *District 4 HRDC*

- District 4 HRDC – a CAP agency in rural northern Montana (Havre, Montana) reached out to their local pharmacy and was able to have the vaccine administered at their Early Head Start / Head Start site for **all** staff.
- A great partnership initiated by the grantee.



EXAMPLE FROM THE FIELD:

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

- By establishing the **LACOE COVID Response team**, the office was able to start advocating early for the ECE workforce to be a priority and considered as essential workers.
- This resulted in **DPH** including LACOE in the county's master plan for vaccinations.
- **LACOE Head Start Early Learning Division** quickly responded to the call for support, building awareness, and distributing the codes for all Head Start in LA county and California State Preschool programs.



ACTIONS PROGRAMS CAN TAKE TO ENSURE GOOD EXPERIENCES

#Sleeveup4HeadStart



DISCUSSION



Will the ACF Office of Head Start require that staff of Head Start grantees get the COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccination for individuals is not required under current federal law. The decision to require the vaccine remains a program and/or employer-specific decision, and subject to applicable federal and state laws. Programs should consider guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as well as state and local guidance, in making that decision. At this time, CDC does not know of any state vaccination laws related to the COVID-19 vaccines.



Can Head Start grantees require staff to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

For some healthcare workers or essential employees, a state or local government or employer, for example, may require or mandate that workers be vaccinated as a matter of state or other law. Head Start and Early Head Start grantees, like other employers, may decide to require employees to obtain COVID-19 vaccination when:

- It relates to a staff member's position in the program, and
- It is necessary for program operations.

If a grantee chooses to require vaccination for staff, it is important to develop supportive policies and procedures that take into consideration requests for reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities, medical conditions, or specific religious beliefs and practices. Grantees should consult the [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) and the [CDC](#) for further information.





How do I know the vaccine is safe?

Safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority

COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all vaccines.

Before Authorization

- **FDA** carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials.
- **ACIP** reviews all safety data before recommending use.

After Authorization

- **FDA** and **CDC** closely monitor vaccine safety and side effects. There are systems in place that allow CDC and FDA to watch for safety issues.



V-safe:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>



LOOKING FORWARD

- ❑ *Getting vaccinated is an important mitigation step towards reopening with in-person services*
- ❑ *Success can be achieved with community involvement*
- ❑ *More Head Start dollars on the way*
- ❑ *“Save the Date” for upcoming webinar(s):*

***March 24th, 1:00-2:00 PM EST:
COVID-19 Vaccines: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions***



We'll Get Through This



30

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

Thank you.



The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

