



Educator and staff FAQs

(Updated 1/28/2021)

Q1. Who is included in the “educator” group for purposes of COVID-19 vaccine?

A1. As of Jan. 25, 2021, public and private K-12 educators and staff, early childhood educators, child care providers and staff are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Please refer to the comprehensive [list](#).

Q2. Where can public and private K-12 educators and staff get vaccinated?

A2. You will receive information from your school official or employer about vaccination opportunities. OHA is working closely with the Oregon Department of Education and other education/school officials and partners to ensure K-12 officials, leaders, educators and staff receive timely and up-to-date information.

Visit covidvaccine.oregon.gov or reach out to 211 via email, text or over the phone for the most up-to-date information.

Q3. Where can early childhood educators/staff and child care providers/staff get vaccinated?

A3. You will receive information from your school official or employer about vaccination opportunities. In-home child care providers and other eligible caregivers will receive a direct communication from state and local officials. OHA is working closely with the Oregon Early Learning Division and other early childhood education and child care employers, officials and other local partners to ensure child care providers and early childhood educators receive timely and up-to-date information.

Visit covidvaccine.oregon.gov or reach out to 211 via email, text or over the phone for the most up-to-date information.

Q4. Can child care providers/early childhood educators and staff get vaccinated right away?

A4. Early childhood educators and child care providers are now eligible, but until the federal vaccine supply increases, there isn't enough vaccines to immediately vaccinate everyone. You will receive direction from school officials or employers, but it may take several weeks. It's hard to wait but we ask for your patience. Some counties must finish vaccinating the 1A population before starting education vaccination.

Q5. Who is in charge of organizing vaccination opportunities for educators?

A5. Local public health authorities are working closely with hospitals, health systems and education officials to provide vaccination opportunities for educators and child care providers. Many counties are already planning for them, while others are still vaccinating the 1A population. We ask you to be patient, wait your turn, and to look for communications from school, education, and state and local officials.

Q6. If I have questions about my eligibility, who can I call/where can I go?

A6. For more information, go to the chatbot at covidvaccine.oregon.gov (the chatbot button is “Let’s get started” or there’s an icon at the lower right-hand corner), text ORCOVID to 898211 to get text/SMS updates (English and Spanish only) or email ORCOVID@211info.org. If you can’t get your COVID-19 vaccine question answered on the website, by text, or by email, call the call center at 211 or 1-866-698-6155, which is open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including holidays. Wait times may be long due to high call volumes. There is an option to get a call back rather than wait on hold (in English and Spanish). Free interpretation is available for all other languages. TTY: Dial 711 or call 1-866-698-6155.

Q7. Can homeschool educators and home education pod staff get vaccinated?

A7. Not right now. Refer to the comprehensive [list](#) of eligible educators.

Q8. Can after school program staff get vaccinated?

A8. Refer to the comprehensive [list](#) of eligible educators.

Q9. Will private school and public-school educators be treated differently?

A9. No. Both private and public school educators can now get vaccinated.

Q10. How will child care providers be notified when the vaccine is available?

A10. If you are a child care worker, your employer will connect you with information about scheduling a vaccine. If you are an employer of childcare workers, or an in-home-provider, your county or other local vaccine partner will reach out to you to provide you with information to schedule a vaccine for yourself and for your employees. OHA also is sharing regular updates on the COVID-19 Vaccine [website](#), through social media and the news media, and to vaccine providers on the schedule for the upcoming phases.

Q11. How can I find out how to get a vaccine in my county?

A11. Local public health authorities are working closely with education officials, hospitals, health systems, child care resources and referral entities to provide vaccination opportunities for educators and child care providers. Many counties are already planning, while others are still vaccinating the 1A population. We ask you to be patient, wait your turn, and look for communications from school and education officials.

Q12. What ID do I need to bring with me to prove I work for a child care provider, early childhood education center or K-12 school?

A12. You do not have to show proof that you're an educator or child care provider, though vaccine providers may ask you to declare in some way that you are eligible.

Q13. Do I need to have insurance to get a vaccine?

A13. For now, vaccine doses will be given to everyone at no cost and you do not need to provide proof of health insurance. Vaccine providers cannot charge individuals for giving a vaccine. If you have health insurance, please bring your insurance card. The vaccine provider may charge a vaccine administration fee to your insurance. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company, or for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

Q14. How much does it cost to get a vaccine?

A14. For now, vaccine doses will be given to everyone at no cost. Vaccination providers may charge your insurance for a visit fee but cannot charge individuals for a vaccine. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company, or for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

Q15. Will any group be vaccinated first (e.g., K-12 teachers before bus drivers)?

A15. School districts, health systems and local public health authorities are working together to establish priorities for educator vaccination to support school reopening. Sequencing is a local decision. It is going to take time to vaccinate all educators due to the limited federal vaccine supply. It's hard to wait but please wait your turn. Some counties are still vaccinating the 1a population.

Q16. When will vaccines be available for child care providers?

A16. Child care providers and early learning educators can receive the vaccine beginning Jan. 25, 2021. Because there isn't enough vaccine to immediately vaccinate all educators, we ask for your patience. Please do not call your doctor's office or health care provider with questions about when you can be vaccinated.

Q17. Can I require my staff to get a vaccination?

A17. At this time, OHA does not require COVID-19 vaccinations for any group of people or in any workplace setting. Employment requirements fall under the Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) oversight. For questions related to COVID-19 visit the BOLI [website](#).

Vaccine Administration Questions

Q18. What happens after I get a vaccine?

A18. You will still need to wear a mask and physically distance even after you are fully vaccinated, at least for now. The available vaccines require two doses. You should talk to your vaccine provider to learn how you can get notifications about when you are eligible to receive your second dose. Download the [V-safe app](#), which provides personalized health check-ins after you receive the vaccination. V-safe can also remind you to get your second dose. We encourage you to continue visiting the [CDC website](#) for updated guidance.

Q19. What if I get exposed to COVID-19 after my first dose?

A19. Individuals should continue to follow existing quarantine and isolation guidance even after individuals receive the first dose. The Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Early Learning Division (ELD) are updating guidance on how to address a COVID exposure once individuals are fully vaccinated. You should receive an update via ODE and ELD.

Q20. How long will I need to be observed for after I am vaccinated?

A20. You will be observed for 15-30 minutes.

Q21. What are the common/immediate side effects?

A21. According to the Food and Drug Administration, the most common side effects found in the COVID-19 vaccine trials included pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain and joint pain.

Q22. Who should I call if I have side effects-the vaccination site or my provider?

A22. Side effects are common after COVID vaccination. If you have concerns about any side effects after you leave the vaccination site, you should contact your primary care provider or go to an urgent care or emergency facility. We encourage you to continue visiting the [CDC website](#) for updated guidance on what to expect after vaccination.

Q23. Will I need to keep wearing a mask and being physically distant?

A23. Yes. You will still need to continue to wear a mask, wash your hand frequently and physically distance even after you are fully vaccinated, at least for now. Things can't go back to normal until enough people are vaccinated. If we all work together, we'll get to that point faster and save lives in the process. We encourage you to continue visiting the [CDC website](#) for updated guidance.

Q24. I tried to get a vaccine and was turned away/told to come back on another date. Why would this happen?

A24. School officials, employers, or state or local officials will reach out to you about vaccination opportunities for educators and child care providers. There is currently not enough vaccine to vaccinate all educators at once. Some counties are

still vaccinating the 1A population. We ask that you please do not contact hospitals and health systems. You may attend vaccination events or go to vaccination sites that are clearly designated for educators. It's hard to wait but we ask that you please wait your turn.

For more questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, [click here](#).

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@dhsosha.state.or.us.