

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Ohio K-12 School Staff Vaccination Program

School districts participating in the Ohio's K-12 School Staff Vaccination Program have committed to full-time classroom or hybrid learning by March 1, 2021. Governor Mike DeWine continues to emphasize the importance of getting students back in the classroom to ensure the best learning environment possible and help reduce the toll the pandemic has taken on the social-emotional and mental well-being of young Ohioans. The K-12 School Staff Vaccination Program is an important step toward the goal of safely returning Ohio students to the classroom.

K-12 schools vaccination timeline

Vaccine supply is scarce, and there is not enough vaccine to vaccinate every eligible K-12 staff member at the same time. Vaccination of Ohio's K-12 teachers and school employees will be staggered, with the goal of all K-12 teachers or employees having the opportunity to receive their first dose by March 1, 2021. Vaccine allocation and clinic planning should follow the schedule below:

- [Week One \(Beginning Feb. 1\)](#)
- [Week Two \(Beginning Feb. 8\)](#)
- [Week Three \(Beginning Feb.15\)](#)
- [Week Four \(Beginning Feb. 22\)](#)

Eligible K-12 employees

Only K-12 school employees who are **necessary to the operation of in-person instruction and services** for students will be eligible for vaccination. This includes:

- Teachers and long-term substitutes.
- Bus drivers and cafeteria workers.
- Environmental and building services workers.
- Other adults in school district buildings who regularly interact with students and have a contractual relationship with the district (such as office personnel, aides, non-teaching staff, coaches, etc.)

The program does NOT include school board members, parent volunteers, or early-childhood providers.

Prioritization of school staff: If possible, within these eligible groups, please prioritize school staff who work with students who cannot wear a face mask because of health or educational needs.

How Ohio's K-12 School Staff Vaccination Program Will Work

Schools districts will have a vaccination provider partner who will administer vaccinations to their staff. This process is being directed locally by educational service centers (ESCs).

- **Estimation of vaccine recipients:** School districts, educational service centers, and vaccine provider partners should work together to estimate the expected number of vaccine recipients to assist in finalizing plans for vaccine administration.
- **Confirm and communicate clinic details and eligibility verification:** School districts should send communications to staff explaining the dates and locations of the vaccinations, how staff receiving the vaccines should prepare, and what they must take to the appointment for proof of eligibility. In addition:
 - School districts and ESCs should confirm with vaccination provider partners if there will be an advance

- registration process or specific time slots assigned.
- Most providers are using a preregistration process and providing a unique identifier or link to staff to verify eligibility.
 - Vaccine provider partners will request staff to present photo identification, such as their work ID badge, at their appointment time to verify identity and eligibility. If proper identification is not available at time of visit, staff members may still be vaccinated if they confirm they are eligible.
- School districts should ensure staff members understand that they must receive their vaccinations through this process and should NOT contact local pharmacy providers, hospitals, or their local health department to schedule a vaccination on their own.

Updated Feb. 2, 2021.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.