



Kate Brown, Governor



Frequently Asked Questions

As of 1.25.2021

- 1. Who is included in the “educator” group for purposes of COVID-19 vaccine?** 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. Here is a list of all educators who are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2. Where can public and private K-12 educators and staff get vaccinated?** You should begin receiving information via the Oregon Early Learning Division, school officials, employers, or local health administrators about vaccination opportunities. Local public health authorities are working closely with state and local partners to ensure early educators and child care providers know about opportunities. You may also hear about vaccination opportunities through the news, hospitals, health systems, child care resource and referral agencies, and other partners. State and local officials ask that you please do not reach out to hospitals and health systems. You should only attend events or go to vaccination sites that are clearly designated for educators and providers. Visit covidvaccine.oregon.gov/ or reach out to 211 via email, text or over the phone for the most up-to-date information.
- 3. Where can early educators and child care providers get vaccinated?** You should begin receiving information via the Oregon Early Learning Division, school officials, employers, or local health administrators about vaccination opportunities. Local public health authorities are working closely with state and local partners to ensure early educators and child care providers know about opportunities. You may also hear about vaccination opportunities through the news, hospitals, health systems, child care resource and referral agencies, and other partners. State and local officials ask that you please do not reach out to hospitals and health systems. You should only attend events or go to vaccination sites that are clearly designated for educators, staff and providers. Visit covidvaccine.oregon.gov/ or reach out to 211 via email, text or over the phone for the most up-to-date information.
- 4. When can educators and child care providers/early childhood educators and staff get vaccinated?** While educators and child care providers are now eligible, there are currently not enough vaccines to immediately vaccinate all educators and child care providers. Until the federal vaccine supply increases, it

will take several weeks to vaccinate this population. You should receive direction from school officials, employers, or state and local officials about opportunities for vaccination. You may also hear about vaccination opportunities through the news, hospitals, health systems and other partners. You should only attend 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. Some counties are still vaccinating the 1A population because they are the highest-priority population.

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

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.

6. If I have questions about my eligibility, who can I call/where can I go? For more information, go to [covidvaccine.oregon.gov/\[URL\]](https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/), 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. Please be aware that 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.

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

Not right now. See the list of eligible educators staff at covidvaccine.oregon.gov.

8. Can after school program staff get vaccinated? See the list of eligible educators staff at covidvaccine.oregon.gov.

9. Will private school and public-school educators be treated differently? No.

Both private and public-school educators can now get vaccinated. OHA is working with the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Early Learning Division and other school officials to provide information about vaccination opportunities.

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

Oregon Early Learning Division (ELD) will share information with child care providers when more detail about the process to receive a vaccine is available. OHA also is sharing regular updates on [its website](#), through social media and the news media, and to vaccine providers on the schedule for the upcoming phases. The ELD has transmitted contact information for early learning and child care providers broken out by county. This data includes Emergency Child Care (ECC)

facilities (including Head Start, licensed child care - home-based and center-based, recorded school-age preschool and school-age programs). It also includes child care facilities that are currently not operating as ECC facilities but are hopeful will return to actively providing child care during 2021 to increase the supply of available child care for children and families.

This data file does not include: preschool programs operated by public schools unless they are licensed as child care facilities, or city or county run preschool and child care programs that are exempt from licensure. In addition, these data do not include legally-license exempt family, friend, and neighbor caregivers. The ELD is working with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to obtain the data for this group of providers, who are included in the educator group.

A forthcoming data file will include contact information for family, friend, and neighbor caregivers and additional Tribal Head Start grantees. The ELD is working with ODHS and Tribal nations to obtain these data.

- 11. How can I find out how to get a vaccine in my county?** Local public health authorities are working closely education officials, hospitals, health systems, child care resource and referral entities, and education officials 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 to look for communications from school and education officials.
- 12. 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?** You do not have to show proof that you're an educator or provider Vaccine providers may ask you to declare in some way that you are an educator or child care provider.
- 13. Do I need to have insurance to get a vaccine?** 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, 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.
- 14. How much does it cost to get a vaccine?** For now, vaccine doses will be given to everyone at no cost. However, vaccination providers may charge your insurance for a visit fee. Providers cannot charge individuals for giving 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.

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

School districts, health systems and local public health authorities are working together to establish priorities for educator vaccination to support school reopening. Prioritization 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 we ask that you please wait your turn. Some counties are still vaccinating the 1a population because they are the highest-risk population.

16. When will vaccines be available for child care providers? Child care providers and early learning educators are included in the educators (Phase 1B) of the [prioritization plan](#) and can begin receiving the vaccine on Jan. 25, 2021. [Due to not having enough vaccine to immediately vaccinate all educators, we are requesting your patience and advise that you not call your doctor's office or health care provider with questions about when you can be vaccinated.](#)

17. Can I require my staff to get a vaccination? At this time, the Oregon Health Authority 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

18. What happens after I get a vaccine? You will still need to wear a mask and physically distance even after you are fully vaccinated, at least for now. The currently 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.

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

20. How long will I need to be observed for after I am vaccinated? You will be observed for 15-30 minutes.

21. What are the common/immediate side effects? What are the COVID-19 vaccine's side effects? According to the FDA, 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.

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

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.

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

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

School officials, employers, or state or local officials will be reaching 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 reach out to hospitals and health systems. You should attend 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](#).