



Questions and Answers: COVID-19 Vaccines for School and Child Care Staff

Updated 02/24/2021

When can school and child care staff expect to start getting vaccinated?

On January 18, 2021, Minnesota launched a COVID-19 vaccine pilot program now known as COVID-19 Community Vaccination Program, partnering with local public health and school districts to initially serve adults 65 years of age or older, as well as prekindergarten through grade 12 educators, school staff and child care workers. The state sites are limited to 18+. School and child care staff may also be eligible for the vaccine under multiple priority groups – based on age, prioritized sectors, etc. They can and should pursue these available vaccination opportunities as eligible. More information at mn.gov/vaccine.

Why did Minnesota create a pilot of COVID-19 vaccination for school and child care staff?

In an effort to prioritize children and prepare for when Minnesota has more vaccine available and able to move onto 1b, Governor Walz is piloting a process of vaccinating educators and licensed and certified child care programs in partnership. Though the vaccine will be made available to school and child care staff through the COVID-19 Community Vaccination program sites beginning the week of January 18, not all school and child care staff will be able to immediately get the vaccine due to limited supply, especially as Minnesota continues to vaccinate 1a health care workers and residents and staff of long-term care facilities. We ask for patience as we continue this program. As Minnesota receives more doses from the federal government, the vaccination process will speed up.

Which school and child care staff are eligible to participate?

All early learning through grade 12 school staff at Minnesota public, nonpublic, and tribal schools including staff who contract with schools, such as bus drivers, who are 18 and over are eligible to receive

the vaccine. Staff working in Minnesota licensed and non-school based certified child care programs – including licensed family child care providers – who are working in-person onsite are included in this pilot; school-based certified centers are also included as school staff. In the first weeks, licensed and certified child care providers were selected for the pilot through a random process, adding additional centers and family child care providers each week. Selection is currently done on the individual level based on waitlists and survey submissions.

Am I required to get the vaccine?

The state does not require school or child care staff to be vaccinated; COVID-19 vaccines are not required as a part of child care licensure. Individuals selected for a vaccine are not obligated to participate in the vaccination pilot or other vaccination opportunities.

How will school and child care staff schedule their vaccine?

Staff in education or child care setting will be contacted directly if selected to sign up for vaccine appointments at a state site in the Twin Cities or a local public health agency. School and child care staff are also encouraged to [contact their local public health agencies](#), additional doses will be allocated to local public health departments selected based on distribution across all regions, population size and capacity in relation to other doses allocated each week. In addition, with the Governor's prioritization of education and child care, the state is working with local public health to ensure prioritization of this population as 1a is completed and/or they need to get doses out within the 72 hour timeframe.

Scenarios: How will I be contacted?

Note: The 7-county metro includes Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Carver, Scott and Dakota Counties

I was put on PrimaryBio's waitlist in the second week of the pilot (week of January 26) and I live outside the 7-county metro

Everyone that lives outside the 7-county metro and provided their information the week of January 26 in PrimaryBio's system has been provided to the appropriate local public health (LPH) departments. As vaccine is available in the corresponding LPH the individual will be contacted directly by the LPH.

I was put on PrimaryBio's waitlist in the second week of the pilot (week of January 26) and I live in the 7-county metro

Everyone that lives in the 7-county metro and provided their information the week of January 26 in PrimaryBio's system has been provided to Vault Health to register to receive the vaccine at the Minneapolis site and has been sent information to register to receive the vaccine. Be sure to check your spam folder if you have not received the communications. For those individuals that have yet to receive

the vaccine, provided their information to PrimaryBio's system the week of January, and live in the 7-county metro area another communication will be sent to you the week of February 22.

I completed the Education and Child Care COVID-19 Vaccine Survey and I live outside the 7-county metro

Everyone that lives outside the 7-county metro, provided their information in the online form/survey (including authorization to collect), and indicated school staff/administration, Head Start or early education, community education, transportation staff, or educator has been provided to the appropriate local public health (LPH) departments. As vaccine is available in the corresponding LPH the individual will be contacted directly by the LPH.

If someone indicated child care center staff/administration or family child care provider in the survey, some have been provided to the appropriate LPH. The remainder of those will be provided to LPH by March 2.

If someone indicated "other" or typed a description of their position in the online survey their names will be provided to LPH by March 2.

I completed the Education and Child Care COVID-19 Vaccine Survey and I live in the 7-county metro

Everyone that lives in the 7-county metro, provided their information in the online form/survey (including authorization to collect), and indicated school staff/administration, Head Start or early education, community education, transportation staff, or educator has been provided to Vault Health or PrimaryBio to register to receive the vaccine at the Minneapolis site or other metro location. The communication will be sent no later than Wednesday, February 24. Be sure to check your spam folder if you have not received the communications from Vault or PrimaryBio.

If someone indicated child care center staff/administration or family child care provider in the survey, some have been provided to PrimaryBio or Vault Health. The remainder of those will be provided to PrimaryBio or Vault Health for registrations available after March 2.

If someone indicated "other" or typed a description of their position in the online survey their names will be provided to Vault or PrimaryBio by March 2.

I completed the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector and I live outside the 7-county metro

Information submitted to the Vaccine Connector will begin being sent to LPH beginning Wednesday, March 3.

I completed the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector and I live in the 7-county metro

Everyone that lives in the 7-county metro and provided their information in the Vaccine Connector will be randomly selected to receive a communication to register for a vaccine appointment beginning week of March 1.

Should I use the COVID-19 Vaccine Connector?

All Minnesotans who work in schools and child care settings should fill out the form to ensure they stay updated on vaccination opportunities in their area when they become available. **Staff who have already completed the [Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine – Education and Child Care survey](#) do *not* need to complete the Vaccine Connector form or re-submit their information.**

Do I need an appointment to receive a vaccine?

Yes. Every person receiving a vaccine at one of the sites will require an appointment. Sites will not accept any walk-ups. If appointment times become available, individuals that indicated they could come on short notice may be contacted.

If I am contacted by my healthcare provider or local public health and they have a vaccine available for me, can I get the vaccine that way?

Yes. If you have the chance to be vaccinated elsewhere and wish to receive the vaccine, you should not wait to get it via the school or child care program where you work.

Will school and child care staff need to show proof of employment when they arrive for their vaccine appointments?

Yes, school and child care staff should bring a school ID badge, paystub, or provide their child care license number. Contracted staff who may not have a staff ID badge or a pay stub to verify their employment or affiliation with your school district or charter school will be directed to contact school leaders for a signed letter to bring to their vaccine appointment that verifies their employment or affiliation with your school. The letter may be signed by a superintendent, charter school director or human resources director.

How early should I arrive for my appointment? How long will my appointment last?

In order to maximize efficiency, do not arrive more than 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. While serious side effects are rare, you will be asked to wait 15 to 30 minutes after getting the vaccination before leaving the site to make sure you feel alright.

Where are the sites located?

The pilot program we launched in January taught us valuable lessons about how to register Minnesotans for their shot and administer them quickly and safely at these sites. Given their success and vaccine demand, the state is establishing semi-permanent state-run community vaccination sites in Duluth, Rochester and two in the Twin Cities. Currently, the Twin Cities sites are the only ones making appointments for education and child care workers, but school and child care staff may be called for a appointment at any of the state-run sites if there is a need to fill last minute appointments.

Local [public health agencies](#) in Greater Minnesota have been allocated vaccines specifically for school and child care staff in their communities. Staff in education and child care settings will be contacted directly if selected to sign up for vaccine appointments at state or local public health agencies.

Local public health agencies in the Twin Cities metro and in Greater Minnesota may also partner directly with school and child care programs in their communities as additional vaccines become available (likely once they've completed vaccinating phase 1a). Appointments at any of the locations are not guaranteed.

I have some concerns about the vaccine. Where can I get more information?

You can get more information about the vaccine including how it was developed and what to expect after you get your vaccine [at this fact sheet that has been posted on the Minnesota Department of Health's website](#).

Do I still need to wear a mask after I receive the vaccine?

Yes. After the second vaccine dose, it takes about two weeks for your body to build up protection. It is not known yet how long COVID-19 vaccines may protect people who get them from the virus. It is not known yet if people who get the vaccine can transmit COVID-19 to others if they get infected with COVID-19. Until we know more you should continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, stay home when sick, and follow other health and safety guidance.

What vaccine will be used?

Some sites will use [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and others will use [Moderna](#). You will receive your second dose at the same location as the first and there will be no mixing of vaccines used.