

# COVID-19 VACCINE ANOTHER LAYER OF PROTECTION AGAINST THE VIRUS

As California's vaccine rollout begins, it is critical that education professionals have the tools to access vaccinations in a safe and timely way. While we know that safety protocols like masks, social distancing, testing and tracing, and proper ventilation will still be necessary, the vaccine is an important step in our COVID-19 recovery. Below is information to help your local union prepare to work with your district and county health officials on the vaccination process.

## ACTION STEPS FOR UNION LEADERS

### 1. Share Facts & Resources with Your Members

Email, social media, and your Site Rep structures are great ways to get information out so your members and school communities can make informed decisions. Check out these resources:

- 1-page Vaccination Factsheet from the California Department of Public Health
- CA Vaccinate All 58 Toolkit, social media resources, posters, and more in many languages
- About the Vaccines from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
- CFT and AFT resources
- Recording of a 12/2 Vaccine Webinar hosted by AFT & others
- Recording of a 1/12 Vaccine Webinar hosted by AFT & others

### 2. Meet with Your County Health Department

Local health departments are coordinating the rollout and timeline for each vaccination phase. Health departments and approved providers receive the vaccines from the state, and many counties have set up a team to plan for distribution. Talk with your county's health department vaccination team about details and timeline for the rollout to schools. This meeting can be coordinated among local education unions on a county-wide basis to coordinate planning and input. Follow your local health department on social media for regular updates.

- Contact information for all local health officers
- Websites for local health departments

### 3. Make a Plan with Your District

Making the vaccine available in a timely manner for education professionals who want it is an area of mutual interest. Reach out together with district officials to your healthcare insurer and its providers, county health officials, and other authorized vaccine providers to develop a convenient system for schools. Explore opportunities to integrate school-based health services into the vaccine rollout. Connect with other stakeholders, like your local labor council and community groups. Vaccines are available at no cost and do not require insurance, although some insurance plans may be helpful in coordinating rollouts. Consult with CFT staff regarding bargaining to expand awareness, opportunities, and time for vaccination.

#### WHEN CAN SCHOOL STAFF GET A VACCINE?

##### Phase 1a:

- **Healthcare workers and long-term care residents, including school nurses and other health professionals**

##### Phase 1b, Tier One:

- **People 65+**
- **Workers in education, childcare, emergency services, food and agriculture**

##### For more details:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines>

# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**General:** When, where, and how will education professionals be able to get a vaccine? Which Phase/Tier is our county currently in? Are any school staff, such as nurses, able to be vaccinated now? When will Phase 1b start for school staff, essential workers, and seniors? Where can we regularly get updates?

**Supply:** Are there adequate first doses today to vaccinate every school employee in our county? Is there enough supply for all groups prioritized in the first tier of Phase 1b? If the county doesn't have an adequate number of doses today, who will be prioritized and when is sufficient supply expected?

## ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE ROLLOUT

- **Reach maximum people within prioritized groups in a timely, efficient manner**
- **Convenient schedules**
- **Accessible locations**
- **Easy-to-make appointments**
- **Widely shared notifications**
- **Multilingual information**
- **Trusted, grassroots voices**
- **Paid time off and other supports for workers**
- **Progress reports with equity data and prioritized groups**

**Health Plans & Providers:** Is the county working with health plans and providers that our members use to develop a vaccine plan for schools? Are there opportunities to integrate school-based health services into the vaccine rollout?

**Sites & Schedules:** What sites will the county use? Will any schools be used? What schedule is in place to administer vaccinations (days of the week, time spans during each day, times during the weekends)? Is the county working with providers to set up vaccine clinics at school sites and workplaces? How are appointments made?

**Community Health Education:** How will school staff know when and where they can get a vaccine? What is the county's health education plan? In which languages will it be available? How is the first dose being tracked? How will the county make sure people are notified for their second dose?

**Progress Reports:** Does the county publish a report on doses administered that includes demographic and occupation/industry information? Will we know how many school staff and other essential workers have received the vaccine? How will we know if our hardest hit community members have received the vaccine (e.g., communities of color, low-income residents, seniors)?

## CALIFORNIA COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

[HTTPS://COVID19.CA.GOV/VACCINES](https://COVID19.CA.GOV/VACCINES)

STATE COVID-19 VACCINE HOTLINE: 1-833-422-4255

COVID-19 VACCINE EMAIL: [COVIDCALLCENTER@CDPH.CA.GOV](mailto:COVIDCALLCENTER@CDPH.CA.GOV)

TWITTER: [@CAPUBLICHEALTH](https://twitter.com/CAPUBLICHEALTH)

FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CAPUBLICHEALTH](https://www.facebook.com/CAPUBLICHEALTH)