

# DDSD FAQs: Vaccine Plan for DDSD Employees

Updated February 2, 2021

## **Are staff members required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

No. The vaccine is optional but all employees are encouraged to get vaccinated.

## **Where will vaccines be administered?**

The health care systems are working to create a central vaccination center for K-12 staff at the Oregon Convention Center.

## **If I have access to a vaccine through another pathway, can I get it?**

Yes. We are coordinating with health systems to offer employees one pathway to vaccination, and we encourage everyone to access any and all pathways to vaccination availability.

## **If I have already received my first dose of the vaccine from another provider, can I sign up for my second dose through this system?**

No, you need to go back to the provider who gave you the first dose. You should have rec'd a card stating when your second dose should be administered.

## **When are K-12 employees likely to receive first doses?**

Some K-12 employees, for example school nurses, are part of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) [Phase 1a](#). Members of OHA Phase 1a are currently receiving vaccinations.

The majority of K-12 employees are part of OHA's **Phase 1b**. There are approximately 40,000 K-12 staff in the tri-county area who are part of OHA group 1b, and they will become eligible for vaccination on Jan. 25. The health systems will administer approximately 2,000 vaccinations per day at the Oregon Convention Center vaccination center, so it will take several weeks to administer the first dose to all K-12 employees. The health systems will begin administering the vaccine to K-12 staff at the center on Jan. 27.

OHA and the health systems have determined the sequence of employee groups within OHA [Phase 1b](#) who will receive the vaccine, with a focus on providing student-facing staff with the first opportunities to access the vaccine.

## Sequencing of K-12 Employee Phases

### OHA 1a (ongoing)

- School nurses, school-based health care center HCP and student health center HCP, see page 9 of the [state plan](#).
- School Nurse: LPN/CAN/Nurse/RN

OHA 1b: Multnomah County K-12 sequence (eligible Jan, 25 and health systems will offer appointments beginning Jan, 27)

### **Wave 1**

- o Limited in-person instructional staff

- o Operations staff that facilitate direct services to students (bus drivers, nutrition services, custodians)
- o Pre-K to 1st grade teachers, support staff, and administration at an elementary school

**Wave 2**

- o Elementary school teachers, grades 2nd grade to 5th grade, or support staff and administration at elementary schools

**Wave 3**

- o Middle school teachers, support staff, and administration at middle schools

**Wave 4**

- o High School teachers, support staff, administration at high schools and CTP
- o District office staff

**When will vaccinations begin?**

Our health system partners are planning to begin offering appointments for K-12 staff on Jan. 27.

There are approximately 40,000 K-12 staff in the tri-county area that will become eligible for vaccination on Jan. 25.

Current estimates are that our health care systems partners will administer approximately 2,000 vaccinations each day at the Oregon Convention Center based on vaccine availability so it will take several weeks to administer the first dose of vaccines to all early education and K-12 staff at this location.

OHA and the hospital systems are planning the sequence of staff groups for these appointments. Staff who provide direct, in-person support to students will be offered appointments first. Staff in the first group will receive information about scheduling early into the week of Jan. 25.

**How will I know when it's my turn to receive the vaccine?**

OHA and the health systems have determined the sequence of employee waves to receive vaccinations. Staff who provide direct, in-person support and facilitate direct support to students will be offered appointments first. Staff in the first group will receive information about scheduling early next week.

The health systems will notify us when appointments are available for the next phase. Notifications will come to staff members via their official school email account. If you think you may have missed the message, please check your SPAM folder.

The situation is fluid, so please be prepared for ongoing shifts in planning, and be prepared to act quickly if you are notified you are eligible for an upcoming vaccination appointment. Check your email regularly.

**Do I need to take leave, if I schedule my vaccine during my workday?**

No. We want to make this as easy as possible for those who want the vaccine. Please do your best to select a time that does not create an undue impact on your students or coworkers and coordinate with your supervisor.

**Will my family members be able to get the vaccine at the same time I do?**

No. At this time, the vaccination campaign is limited to eligible education employees.

**If I decline vaccination, will it impact my ability to work in my current position?**

Choosing to decline the vaccine is not expected to impact your ability to continue working in your current position.

**Will I still be required to wear PPE if I get the vaccine?**

Yes. As noted earlier, the vaccine is one layer of protection against transmission of COVID-19. It is important to note that the vaccine is just one layer of protection against the transmission of COVID-19. Vaccination does not change the need to be diligent with and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), distancing, and hygiene.

**What about outside of work: Should I still wear a mask and physically distance from others?**

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, frequent hand washing and staying at least six feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

**If I am eligible for the vaccine and don't get it now, can I still get it later?**

Yes. You will be placed back into the sequencing process based on your job's sequencing wave.

**If I only have 1 dose of the vaccine, and my component district wants me to return to the school site, do I have to return?**

Districts may require some employees on-site to support in person student learning during the vaccination process. We're working closely with our districts to determine their needs for on-site student supports and whether they need those supports before staff are fully vaccinated. We'll share more information once we have the answers to these threshold questions. It is important to note that the vaccine is just one layer of protection against the transmission of COVID-19. Vaccination does not change the need to be diligent with and proper use of personal protective equipment, distancing, and good hygiene which also help reduce the risk of onsite transmission.

**Does this plan include staff who work at the District Office who do not provide direct and in-person support to students?**

Staff who are assigned to District Office are definitely part of the plan. We will sequence student-facing employees first and then operation and administrative groups afterwards.

**Can District Office staff who don't work directly with students continue to work remotely until all household members get vaccinated?**

We are working to update our District Office reopening plan which will have information about staff working on site and remotely. We will share that information when it is available.

**Do I mark "sick" on my time card if I get sick from the vaccine side effects and am not able to report to work?**

Yes.

**Will the District reimburse me for my mileage?**

No.

**Should I get a vaccine if I am pregnant?**

If you are part of a group who is recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and are pregnant, you may choose to be vaccinated. Conversation with your obstetric provider may help with informed decision making, but this conversation is not required. This information is from the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#).

**If I am immune compromised can I move up in the sequencing?**

No, the sequencing was defined/set at the state level.

**Should I get a vaccine if I have underlying medical conditions?**

You may receive vaccination even with underlying medical conditions, as long as you are not allergic to polyethylene glycol. Phase 2/3 clinical trials demonstrate similar safety and efficacy profiles in persons with underlying medical conditions. This information is from the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#).

**Should I get a vaccine if I have allergies?**

Allergic reactions can occur with any medication or vaccine, but the risk with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine appears to be very low. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should be avoided in those with a history of a severe allergic reaction to polyethylene glycol as it is a component of this vaccine. Individuals with common allergies to medications, foods, inhalants, insects and latex are no more likely than the general public to have an allergic reaction to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. This information is from the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#).

**Should I get a vaccine if I have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days?**

Reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection due to natural immunity. You're encouraged to delay vaccination until 90 days from infection to allow others who have no natural immunity to receive a vaccine. If you have had COVID-19 in the 90 days prior to your vaccination date, Occupational Health will reach out to you and provide the option to wait before receiving your vaccine. You will not be excluded from vaccination. This information is from the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#).

**What is the parking situation at the Convention Center?**

Driving: There is free designated patient parking on Levels P1 and P2. Please check the Convention Center's website for vehicle size limitations. Enter on Lloyd Blvd. or 1<sup>st</sup> Ave

Public Transportation: TriMet MAX and Portland Streetcar's Central loop stops at the MLK lobby. TriMet Bus Line 6 also stops at the MLK lobby.

Walking: Street entrance into the building is on MLK Blvd.

We also received the following re: parking specifically.

Parking is available at no cost in parking lots P1 (entrance on NE Lloyd Blvd.) and P2 (entrance on NE 1st Ave.). The garage does not accommodate RVs, campers, trucks with trailers and similar oversized vehicles.

If you have any questions that have not been answered by this FAQ, please do not hesitate to contact the DDSD vaccine hotline at 503-262-4407.