

"Get Ready" COVID-19 Vaccination Plan for School Employees: Frequently Asked Questions

BACKGROUND

On January 29, 2021, State Superintendent Chris Reykdal announced a collaboration with Kaiser Permanente to deliver an integrated vaccination strategy supporting school employees in Washington. The large-scale "Get Ready" plan will be grounded in the equitable and safe vaccination of school employees once eligibility is approved by the state of Washington and the Department of Health. Information and updates on the plan are available on the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\) website](#).

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Where are the vaccination sites?

Kaiser Permanente vaccination sites to support school employees will be available along the I-5 corridor, from Smokey Point to Southwest Washington, and around Spokane. Kaiser Permanente will administer the vaccine at Kaiser Permanente owned and operated medical facilities and will collaborate with OSPI to stand up population-based, remote "pop-up" vaccination sites. A list of locations will be made available in the coming weeks.

What about Central Washington and rural parts of the state not served by Kaiser Permanente?

OSPI is committed to expanding the reach of this plan into all areas of the state and welcomes collaboration from other health care providers to support school employees in Central Washington.

Can I get vaccinated if I live outside Western Washington or Spokane?

Yes. School employees from areas outside of the service areas are welcome to travel to one of the sites where vaccinations will be offered. Under this plan, Kaiser Permanente will administer the vaccine at their owned and operated medical facilities as well as at additional pop-up locations that are conveniently located to serve a large number of school employees.

Does this plan mean all school districts are required to use Kaiser Permanente as their vaccination supplier?

No. Districts will not be required to access vaccinations through Kaiser Permanente. If a school or district has made previous arrangements for vaccination, there will be no barrier to continuing with these plans. If a district needs help, OSPI will leverage this collaboration with Kaiser Permanente to support them.



Does this plan change the state’s vaccination timeline for school employees?

No. The goal of the “Get Ready” plan is to ensure school employees are vaccinated quickly and efficiently when they become eligible according to the state’s vaccination distribution plan.

DAY-OF INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

I am a school employee and am eligible now under Phase 1A or Phase 1B, Tier 1. Can I go to a Kaiser Permanente clinic for my vaccination now?

If you are a Kaiser Permanente member, you can go to www.kp.org/wa/e-visit and complete an e-visit. If the e-visit determines you are eligible, you will be directed to a website to make an appointment. Kaiser Permanente will provide more information about access to vaccinations for non-members in the coming weeks.

Will I be assigned a Kaiser Permanente location for my vaccination?

No. Once eligible, school employees may choose whichever Kaiser Permanente school vaccination site is most convenient for them.

Who will tell me once I am eligible to go receive my vaccine?

Eligibility for the vaccine is determined by the state of Washington and Department of Health (DOH). The “Get Ready” plan is being designed to send notifications to school employees once DOH determines that school employees are eligible for the vaccine.

Will I need to bring school identification to show I am eligible?

No. Your eligibility will be determined when you make the appointment for your vaccine (vaccinations are being provided at Kaiser Permanente sites by appointment only). Once you have made your appointment, you will just need to show up on time.

I’m not a Kaiser Permanente member. Will I have to pay for the vaccine if I am vaccinated under this plan?

No. Kaiser Permanente will not charge for a vaccination to protect against COVID-19. For non-members with other health plan coverage, Kaiser Permanente will bill their insurance plan for the administration of the vaccine.

How will my personal health information be protected under this plan?

As a health care provider, Kaiser Permanente Washington will take all proper steps to safeguard protected health information (PHI) and strictly follow all state reporting requirements.

Should I sign up for MyIR prior to being vaccinated?

Yes. [Washington MyIR](#) is an application that allows users and family members to access health records and information, including immunization records.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

What school communities will be eligible to receive vaccine distribution support under this partnership?

Through this partnership, both public preschool and public and private K–12 school employees across Washington state will be provided with vaccination support. This includes state-tribal education compact schools, charter schools, and educational service districts.

Are employees who work for private preschool and childcare facilities eligible through this partnership?

Employees of public preschools and public and private K–12 schools are eligible. This plan does not include employees of private preschools or those who work at childcare facilities. Kaiser Permanente worked with OSPI to set the framework based on the ability to deploy the vaccine at locations appropriate for the physical distancing and safety considerations necessary to vaccinate school employees safely and equitably.

When will school employees be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine?

Currently, any Washingtonian aged 65 and older are eligible for vaccination. The vaccine is still in short supply and there are currently many more people eligible for the vaccine than there is available vaccine. The “Get Ready” plan supports educators and school employees when the DOH approves further Tiers within Phase 1 either Tier-by-Tier or Phase 1B, Tiers 2, 3, and 4 at the same time.

Do I need to be a Kaiser Permanente member to participate in this plan?

No. Eligible school employees will have access to vaccines, regardless of insurance status or Kaiser Permanente membership.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE VACCINE

Which type of the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided by Kaiser Permanente?

Two COVID-19 vaccines (made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna) have received emergency use authorization (EUA) for distribution and administration in the United States. Other drug manufacturers are in various stages of development in producing vaccines to provide protection against COVID-19. These other manufacturers have already applied for or will be applying for EUA from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to make their vaccines available to the public.

Will there be enough vaccine supply to vaccinate all school staff across the state?

We anticipate that manufacturing and availability of the vaccine will increase in the coming weeks and months, which will allow us to vaccinate all those who are eligible. Vaccine availability is ultimately dependent upon the number of vaccines the state receives.