

“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 is grounded in the equitable and safe vaccination of eligible school employees.

On March 2, 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a directive to COVID-19 vaccine providers across the U.S. to immediately make the COVID-19 vaccine available to educators, school staff and licensed child care workers. Educators and school staff can schedule with providers for vaccination now. [See OSPI’s Q&A document about the President’s announcement](#) for more information about what it means for school staff in Washington.

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

How is the “Get Ready” plan impacted by President Biden’s commitment to vaccinate school employees immediately?

Following the announcement from President Biden, school employees are now eligible across the country to be vaccinated. With this update, OSPI and Kaiser Permanente have approval to launch the “Get Ready” program.

Who meets the school employee criteria under the “Get Ready” plan?

Employees of public preschools and public and private preK–12 schools are eligible. Kaiser Permanente has 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.

How do educators access vaccine appointments?

Vaccine appointments will be available to school employees regardless of insurance status through multiple channels such as the “Get Ready” program, federal pharmacy vaccination sites and other providers throughout the state. As part of the integrated “Get Ready” program with Kaiser Permanente Washington both members and non-members are eligible.



Kaiser Permanente Washington members will sign into their account at kp.org and follow instructions to complete a COVID-19 vaccination e-visit. If the e-visit determines the member is eligible for the vaccine, the site will direct them to schedule an appointment.

School employees who are not Kaiser Permanente members will complete a brief form at kp.org/wa/vaccine/get-registered and shortly after, receive an email from Kaiser Permanente that will contain sign-in information.

Note: School employees who live in Clark and Cowlitz counties or who are Kaiser Permanente Northwest members, please go to kp.org/covidvaccine/nw or call 1-800-813-2000 (TTY 711) to make an appointment.

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.

What about parts of the state not served by Kaiser Permanente?

Between Kaiser Permanente, local partnerships, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services directive to create access through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, school employees throughout the state will have access to the COVID-19 vaccination.

The pharmacies included in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program include Safeway/Albertson's, Kroger (Fred Meyer/QFC), Costco, Walmart, Rite Aid, and Health Mart independent pharmacies.

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

No. Districts and school employees are not required to access vaccinations through Kaiser Permanente. If a school employee or school district has made previous arrangements for vaccination, there will be no barrier to continuing with these plans.

REGISTRATION SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

I am not a Kaiser Permanente member and I tried to follow the steps for non-member and reached a dead end – what should I do?

School employees who are not Kaiser Permanente members: please double-check that you successfully completed the first step in the process (filling out the brief form at kp.org/wa/vaccine/get-registered). Once you have successfully completed this form in step one, the online system will guide you through your experience to schedule an appointment.

I completed the form in step one, but I still haven't received the email with my Medical Record Number – what should I do?

It may take a few days to receive the email with your Medical Record Number – thank you for your patience. If you do not receive this email within a few days of completing the form in step one, call 1-877-808-9230 (Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5 pm).

I tried to schedule my vaccine appointment through Kaiser Permanente and was told there are no appointments at my preferred location until April – when will there be availability?

Due to current limitations in vaccine supply across the state, you may not see your preferred date, time, or location the first time you go in to schedule your appointment. Please continue to check back if you don't initially see an appointment that works for you. Additional appointment options will be added each week as more vaccine supply becomes available.

I already received the first dose of the vaccine. Can I get my second dose at Kaiser Permanente?

School employees (both Kaiser Permanente members and non-members) who know which vaccine they received for their first dose and the date they received their first dose can receive their second dose at Kaiser Permanente Washington vaccine clinics. Please call 1-877-808-9230 to schedule your second dose appointment.

DAY-OF INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

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

Yes, vaccinations are being provided at Kaiser Permanente sites by appointment only. Under current state guidance, public and private preK–12 employees are now eligible under Phase 1B, Tier 1.

If you are a Kaiser Permanente Washington 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 able to make an appointment.

School employees who are not Kaiser Permanente members will complete a brief form at kp.org/wa/vaccine/get-registered and shortly after, receive an email from Kaiser Permanente that will contain sign-in information.

Note: School employees who live in Clark and Cowlitz counties or who are Kaiser Permanente Northwest members, please go to kp.org/covidvaccine/nw or call 1-800-813-2000 (TTY 711) to make an appointment.

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

No. School employees may choose whichever Kaiser Permanente vaccination site is most convenient for them.

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.

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 the school employee's personal 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

Are employees who work for private preschool and child care 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 child care facilities. Kaiser Permanente has 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.

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

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

I've already received the vaccine, can I give my "spot" to someone else (partner/spouse, child)?

The "Get Ready" plan supports school employees in accessing the COVID-19 vaccine through Kaiser Permanente and does not extend to school employees' family or friends. You should not give your email address or log in information to any other person to register for the vaccine through Kaiser Permanente. Kaiser Permanente is following federal and state guidelines about who is currently eligible for vaccination.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE VACCINE

Can I choose which vaccine I receive?

Current supply limitations mean that people who want to be vaccinated as soon as they are eligible will receive the type of vaccine that is available at the location where they will be vaccinated. Public health officials emphasize that the best way to protect yourself and to achieve large-scale immunity within our communities is to get vaccinated with any of the three authorized COVID-19 vaccines as soon as you are eligible and there is enough available supply for you to make an appointment. Waiting until you can possibly choose one vaccine over the other puts you at an increased risk for contracting COVID-19 and could contribute to the continuation of this public health crisis.

Can I get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine through the "Get Ready" plan?

Current supply limitations mean people who want to be vaccinated as soon as they are eligible will receive the type of vaccine that is available at the location where they will be vaccinated. Kaiser Permanente is currently receiving supplies of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccine. If Kaiser Permanente receives supply of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, we will administer it according to federal and state guidance.

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

Vaccine availability is ultimately dependent upon the number of vaccines the state receives.