



Vaccination Updates



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated: February 4, 2021 12:00 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION & SCHEDULING LOGISTICS

Where and when will vaccines be administered?

The health care systems created a central vaccination center for K-12 school staff and partners at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC). The Oregon Convention Center clinic will operate 7 days a week from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The Oregon Convention Center is located at:
777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Portland, OR 97232

Will there be parking at OCC and will it be free?

Yes. WE have Here is a [map of the Oregon Convention Center](#).

Arriving via personal vehicle: There is free designated patient parking on Levels P1 (entrance on NE Lloyd Blvd) and P2 (entrance on NE 1st Ave). Please check the Convention Center's website for vehicle size limitations.

Arriving via 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.

Arriving via walking: Street entrance into the building is on MLK blvd.

What is the pre-vaccine worksheet and where do I get it?

You will receive a pre-vaccine worksheet when you arrive at the Oregon Convention Center. This pre-vaccine worksheet asks basic information questions about you and health pre-screening questions.

The vaccine sign-up website has asked me for an 8 digit code. Where do I get the code?

When the site first went live it erroneously requested an 8 digit code. OHA has since resolved the

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issue and you should no longer be asked for a code.

I did not receive a confirmation email confirming my appointment. Did my appointment go through?

It is our understanding that a confirmation email is sent when an appointment is successfully scheduled. Please check your spam or junk mail for the email. Another common situation is an email address is mistyped.

I received inaccurate information from PPS about vaccine scheduling.

- We passed on information precisely as it was provided to us. Some of that information was misinterpreted by individuals, and then that misinformation was repeated to others inaccurately. Some of the information turned out to be incorrect due to errors in Oregon Health Authority's scheduling process.
- What is within our control: We are sharing information with you as soon as we get it and in several formats--emails, our vaccine webpage, our vaccine FAQs, and fielding questions and answers centrally through the vaccine@pps.net email address. We are also sharing with OHA and our health system partners our questions, concerns, and feedback to influence corrections, improvements, and clarity.
- What is not within our control: Errors and glitches in the scheduling process and changing information about vaccine access or scheduling process.
- What can you do: Keep in mind that information is changing and be a part of the solution. The questions you are asking and the experiences you are sharing with us are helping us influence the process and shape the resources we can offer.

I have volunteered for LIPI for grades 2nd or above and there are no eligibility questions regarding LIPI - how do I schedule an appointment?

OHA has now added the statement, "I am a Limited In-Person Instructor" - please select this option if you have volunteered for LIPI.

My appointment is during my work day. Do I need to take leave to get the vaccine?

No, you do not need to use leave balances to get the vaccine; however, you must follow all regular protocols outlined by your supervisor for requesting time off to ensure proper coverage of your work. If you experience side effects in the days after you receive the vaccine and are unable to report to work, you must follow all regular protocols for calling in sick, including reporting leave on your time card.

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If your appointment occurs during your scheduled synchronous time or otherwise requires you to request a sub, please submit your absence as you would normally, and select the leave code “In-Service School” with a note referencing “COVID-Vaccine appointment.”

Which vaccine will I receive? Can I choose which one I receive?

Currently, there are two vaccines approved for emergency use -- Pfizer and Moderna. The vaccine brand at the clinic is based on availability and you will not be able to choose the manufacturer of the vaccine.

What is the timeline for receiving the second vaccination? Will it also be at the Oregon Convention Center?

Depending on which vaccine you are given at the Oregon Convention Center through the mass clinic, the vaccine requires two doses, either 21 or 28 days apart. You will be provided instruction at the time of your vaccine about how to schedule the next dose.

I received my first vaccine dose from my health care provider through Phase 1a but was not scheduled for my second dose. How do I get scheduled for my second dose?

We have been informed by OHA that staff who received their first dose through Phase 1a must contact the provider who administered the first dose to schedule the second dose. The Convention Center clinic is not able to administer second doses for individuals who received the first dose somewhere else. If you received a first dose and your provider has told you to use the OHA process, please explain to your provider that OHA has refused second doses through the Oregon Convention Center clinic and instructed you to go back through your provider. We have raised this issue repeatedly, and we know it is causing concern.

If individuals reside outside the metro area, can they still schedule to get a vaccine at OCC?

We know that all PPS staff, student teachers, CBO & Charter school employees, and staff of our community partners who are Oregon or Washington residents will be able to schedule time to receive the vaccine.

Can we contact our primary care provider to get a shot?

The hospital systems have asked staff to go through the appointment scheduling through the Oregon Health Authority website. Nearly all of those appointments are at the Oregon Convention

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Center mega clinic. We will communicate new information as soon as it is available. The [PPS vaccinations website](#) will continue to be updated.

Is there a drive-thru option available?

No, not at this time. The Oregon Convention Center clinic is the only location at this time. PPS will communicate any updates we receive should this change.

SEQUENCES, PHASES, AND WAVES

Who is eligible for vaccines through Oregon Phase 1b that begins January 25, 2021?

The list of individuals who are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination through Phase 1b is inclusive, and is [available online through the Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\)](#).

How are PPS employees and staff of our community partners being sequenced?

Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington County schools are collaborating on the sequencing of vaccines for K-12 employees and staff of our community partners across the metro-area area. The following waves were developed: **Long-term substitutes, student teachers, CBO and Charter School employees, and staff of our community partners are included in each wave appropriately based on their participation in LIPI and in-person, on-site service and appropriate grade band.**

- Wave 1--vaccine scheduling through the OHA site is available **now** for this group.
 - Individuals providing (or have volunteered and scheduled to begin) limited in-person instruction (LIPI)
 - Emergency child care providers
 - Operations staff that facilitate or provide direct services to students including bus drivers, campus safety associates, custodians, maintenance, and nutrition services
 - SUN Food Pantry Providers
 - Teachers, long-term subs, and student teachers in Pre-K, KG, and 1st grade classrooms, a, specialists (athletics, electives, ESL, media specialists, SEL, SPED, and many more), support staff (attendance coaches, clerical, community agents, EA, Para, SLI, TIC, and many more), administration, and staff of our community partners at schools with elementary grade levels

- Wave 2--scheduling will be available through the OHA site **starting at noon on Monday, February 1.**

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- Elementary school teachers, long-term subs, and student teachers in 2nd to 5th grade classrooms
- Wave 3--vaccine scheduling is not yet available for this group. We anticipate Wave 3 to open in the coming weeks.
 - Middle grade teachers, long-term subs, and student teachers in 6th to 8th grade classrooms, specialists (athletics, electives, ESL, SEL, SPED), support staff, administration, and staff of our community partners at schools with middle grade levels
- Wave 4--vaccine scheduling is not yet available for this group. We anticipate Wave 4 to open soon after Wave 3 in the coming weeks.
 - High school, schools serving students over age 18 (CTP), and multiple pathways to graduation teachers, long-term subs, and student teachers in 9th to adult classrooms, specialists (athletics, electives, ESL, SEL, SPED), support staff, administration, and staff of our community partners at schools with high school and beyond grade levels
 - Substitutes
 - Staff of our community partners
 - Central office staff and other non-school based staff who were not included in prior waves

We can also emphasize that our other mitigation efforts, including self-screening, wearing a face mask (and a face shield for those who choose to), hand-washing, social distancing, and size limitations on cohorts are demonstrated to be very effective. ODE provided a [bibliography of the research](#) from the Oregon Health Authority underlying their Ready School, Safe Learners guidance.

Who is not eligible for a vaccine through Phase 1b?

At this time volunteers and non-student facing contractors are not included in Oregon's Phase 1b.

Can my family members receive the vaccine at the same time I do?

No. At this time Oregon's Phase 1b is limited to eligible education employees and staff of our community partners. You cannot give up your eligibility to make someone else eligible.

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

Oregon Health Authority identifies eligibility. Once you become eligible, you remain eligible. However, where you get the vaccine and how you can make an appointment may change over time.

How is racial equity leading the vaccine distribution sequencing and wave decisions?

Racial equity continues to be a foundational value guiding every decision on how we serve students and our communities during the pandemic, including vaccine distribution. Wave sequences and vaccine distribution policies were decided by the state.

Are employees, student teachers, staff of our community partners, and other adults who work directly with students required to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

No. Although we encourage everyone to consider being vaccinated, it is important to emphasize the most important safety protocols remain in place -- self-screening, wearing a mask, hand-washing, physical distancing, and size limitations on cohorts are effective measures to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Are families aware that LIPI teachers may or may not be vaccinated?

It is well known that teachers are just now beginning to have access to the vaccine. It is important to emphasize our most important safety protocols--self-screening, wearing a mask (and a face shield for those who choose to), hand-washing, social distancing, and size limitations on cohorts. These layers of protection are demonstrated to be very effective. ODE provided a [bibliography of the research](#) from the Oregon Health Authority underlying their Ready School, Safe Learners guidance.

COST, INSURANCE, AND PRIVACY

How much will the vaccine cost?

The vaccine is free to all individuals. You will be asked for your insurance information so that the healthcare system can manage administrative fees with the insurance companies.

Are we required to have insurance through PPS to be eligible for the vaccine?

No. Your insurance provider does not impact your ability to receive the vaccine.

How is PPS handling privacy laws in the event we have educators who elect not to be vaccinated?

The decision to be vaccinated is a personal one. Who you choose to share the information with is up to you. PPS is not tracking who receives the vaccine and who doesn't.

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Are employees and staff of our community partners required to report to PPS that they received their vaccination?

No, PPS is not tracking who receives the vaccine and who doesn't.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS. ALLERGIC REACTIONS, AND UNDERLYING MEDICAL CONDITIONS INFORMATION

Will there be emergency personnel available at the Oregon Convention Center if someone has an allergic reaction to the vaccine?

Yes, emergency responders will be available. Although possible, it is rare that people have an allergic reaction to the vaccine. It is imperative that you answer any pre-screening questions honestly and to the best of your ability so health care workers can provide you the best care possible. Individuals who have not historically had an adverse reaction to vaccines will be monitored for 15 minutes, individuals who have had a history of an adverse reaction will be monitored for 30 minutes.

Are there side effects of taking the vaccine?

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the most common side effects found in the COVID-19 vaccine trials included pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain and joint pain.

Do I call in sick if I experience side effects after receiving the vaccine?

Yes. If you experience side effects in the days after you receive the vaccine and are unable to report to work, you must follow all regular protocols for calling in sick, including reporting leave on your time card.

I had COVID-19 or have an underlying medical condition, am pregnant, or have allergies - should I get a vaccine?

We recommend talking with your primary health care provider if you are unsure if you should get a vaccine. The CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) provides additional information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Will the PPS health advisory panel provide guidance regarding the new variant of the virus?

The health advisory panel has shared that the vaccines are effective for the new variant, B.1.1.7

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(also known as the UK variant). Of course, precautions of hand-washing, self-screening, wearing masks, and social distancing continue to be our best immediate methods of limiting transmission.

Will school health centers be able to deliver the vaccines?

Not at this time. The Oregon Convention Center is where the majority of adult vaccinations will occur for [Oregon Health Authority's Phase 1b](#).