

# Portland Public Schools

## COVID-19 Adult Vaccine Distribution Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*Updated: January 26, 2021*

*[Oregon's COVID-19 vaccine website](#) provides information regarding vaccine safety and effectiveness as well as general vaccine FAQs in multiple languages. We encourage you to review this information for additional information on the COVID-19 vaccine.*

*For general vaccine questions, reach out to 211 via email ([orcovid@211info.org](mailto:orcovid@211info.org)), text (ORCOVID to 898211). For those who do not have reliable access to email, you can use your phone (1-866-698-6155).*

*For questions about how PPS is supporting the distribution of vaccines for employees and partners, please visit our website at [pps.net/covid-19vaccination](https://pps.net/covid-19vaccination)*

### **DISTRIBUTION 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.

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

There is available parking on-site and on the street at the Oregon Convention Center. We have requested, but do not yet have a response, for parking to be free.

#### **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.

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. We understand the vaccine available at this time is the Pfizer vaccine. The vaccine brand may change based on availability.

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

You will schedule your second dose after you receive your first dose, before you leave the center. At this time we believe the second dose will be administered at the Oregon Convention

# Portland Public Schools

## COVID-19 Adult Vaccine Distribution Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Center. The timeline for the second vaccine depends on which vaccine you receive. The Pfizer vaccine is a 17-21 day interval between doses and the Moderna vaccine is 28 days.

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

## **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 partners being sequenced?**

Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington County schools are collaborating on the sequencing of vaccines for K-12 employees and partners across the metro-area area. The following waves were developed: **Long-term substitutes, student teachers, CBO and Charter School employees, and 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
  - 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, and administrators at schools with elementary grade levels
  
- Wave 2
  - Elementary school teachers, long-term subs, and student teachers in 2nd to 5th grade classrooms, 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 community partners at schools with elementary grade levels
  
- Wave 3

## Portland Public Schools

### COVID-19 Adult Vaccine Distribution Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 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 community partners at schools with middle grade levels
- Wave 4
  - High school 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 community partners at schools with high school and beyond grade levels
  - Substitutes
  - 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 partners. You cannot give up your eligibility to make someone else eligible.

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

Yes. Once you are eligible, you remain eligible.

#### **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, 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?**

## **Portland Public Schools**

### **COVID-19 Adult Vaccine Distribution Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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.

##### **Are employees and 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, & 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

# **Portland Public Schools**

## **COVID-19 Adult Vaccine Distribution Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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 (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](#).

TBD...

### **STUDENT VACCINES**

Will students be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Will students be required to be vaccinated before returning to school?