

ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY CHILD CARE RESPONSE TEAM



Thank you for attending the Alameda County COVID-19 and Child Care and Alameda County Health Department (ACDPH) COVID Update webinar on 1/6/21. This document is responding to questions raised prior and during the webinar which may not have been fully addressed or need further documentation for those who are unable to participate. FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) are categorized by content area.

PLEASE NOTE: AC Department of Public Health, First 5 Alameda and our partners have done our best to provide you with the **most current and available information as of Wednesday, Feb. 17th, 2021**. These responses are NOT to be considered as financial and/or legal advice for any specific organization.

The City of Berkeley has its own health department, Berkeley Public Health Department (Berkeley PHD). This Department works closely with AC Dept. of Public Health, but program located in Berkeley should report their incidences through the Berkeley PHD.

[Webinar recording and Powerpoint:](#)

Q1. Where can I find the webinar or the presentation?

The webinar recording and slides are available at <http://www.first5alameda.org/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-resources-2019/399-2/>

[VACCINATION: Who, Why, Where, and When and How?](#)

THERE ARE MANY VACCINATION EFFORTS UNDERWAY THROUGH THE STATE, COUNTY (including Dept. Of Public Health PODS- Points of Distribution, HEALTH PLANS (Kaiser, Sutter, UCSF, County Health Plan), COUNTY CLINICS, and PHARMACIES. CHILD CARE PROVIDERS are encouraged to seek vaccination through ANY AND ALL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. VACCINES ARE IN LIMITED SUPPLY AND THE AVAILABILITY OF VACCINES AND OPPORTUNITIES IS EVERY CHANGING.

You are encouraged to REGISTER to be NOTIFIED OF WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN TO BE VACCINATED.

- REGISTER with the State at <http://myturn.ca.gov>
- REGISTER with the County at <https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines>
- If you have a health plan, use your health plan ap to keep up to date on prioritization and options through your Health Plan.

Q2. Do our child care providers and assistants have priority to receive the COVID vaccine? Yes. *Child care providers, teachers and assistants are included in Phase 1b., directly after health care workers.*

Q3. Will license-exempt providers (e.g., family, friend and neighbor caretakers) be included in the defined group of child care workers and educators prioritized in Phase 1b?



A. Currently license-exempt family, friend and neighbor caretakers, and nannies are being planned for in the defined Phase 1b. However, getting to all of 1b. will take months. Providers are encouraged to be patient and watch for openings and opportunities to be vaccinated through the multiple distribution channels.

Q4. Is there a specially designated location for child care providers and assistants to be vaccinated?

A. No. There is not a specifically designated location for child care providers and assistants to be vaccinated. There is a mixed delivery system of options available which include a county Public Health site, a POD site which are available in certain neighborhoods with higher rates of infection, a site through your health plan (i.e., Kaiser or Sutter), or the CA state site at the Coliseum, and pharmacies included in the distribution plan.

Q5. When and where can we make an appointment?

A. As phase 1b opens and more vaccines become available over the next months, providers are encouraged to seek vaccination options that best fit their situation and availability. The Department of Health will be working with the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and First 5 to get information out on vaccination options. Watch your email. The county website will have options for signing up for an appointment. Some targeted areas of the county will have special vaccination sites (also referred to as POD's or Points of Distribution). Also, if you have a health plan that is offering vaccinations, that is a place to continue to monitor as well. And there is a FEMA and Cal OES site at the Oakland-Alameda Coliseum. Registration for the Coliseum site will be made available through the state vaccination registry [My Turn](#) in mid-February.

Q6. Do you have to receive the vaccine in the county that you live in? Or can you receive it in the county you work in if it becomes available there first? Do you have to receive the vaccine in the county that you live in? Or can you receive it in the county you work in if it becomes available there first?

A. Alameda County, and most Bay Area counties, are offering the vaccine to those who live or work in their county. In addition, the Health Plans are offering appointments across many counties and you may choose an out-of-county appointment if it works for you and is available.

Q7. Based on the tier system in CA for the COVID vaccine, child care workers/teachers are in Phase 1b. When can we expect to be offered the opportunity to get vaccinated?

A. Beginning in Feb. 8th Alameda County will begin adding those in Tier 1 phase 1b which includes child care and educators. However, Phase 1b is inclusive of MANY subgroups. Providers are reminded to be patient as the supply of the vaccine allows the county to move through the 1b. target group, while continuing to reach those over 75 and health care workers -- those from phase 1a.

Q8. Will our staff and volunteers be allowed to get vaccinated at the same time that licensed childcare providers do?

A. Yes. Essentially all child care programs, including license-exempt programs, will be prioritized together with K-12 education and other categories of workers in 1b (i.e., Food/Agriculture, Emergency Services, etc.). The availability of the vaccine will mean delays, but not based on licensed status versus unlicensed status of child care and out-of-school time.



Q9. How do we make sure we are on the distribution list? Is there a place where employers sign up for vaccination notifications? I feel like I have tried to register. Can you share a link?

Child care employers and teachers, Family Child Care providers, and all early education staff are encouraged to register with the county at:

<https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines> to be notified of when it is their turn to be vaccinated. Child care providers should also check with their health plan, employer (if you are not the employer) and monitor their email for other community outreach, including Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies: Bananas, 4Cs, and Hively. Note - once vaccination appointments open up, it will take time to get all of 1b. eligible individuals vaccinated. The Department of Public Health will also be targeting highly impacted neighborhood zip codes, with targeted outreach to those neighborhoods.

Q10. If we are Kaiser members, do we wait for them to have enough vaccines because right now they have none for 1b?

A. You may have greater luck going through your Health Care Plan. But if you can find another appointment, you do not have to wait for your health plan.

Q11. We are a home daycare. How are you going to let us know that we can be vaccinated? I contacted my health provider, they told me I'm not in the age criteria and they haven't heard about home daycare.

A. See the answer to Q.9 above. You are eligible to be prioritized in 1b. The Health Dept. will have guidance on supporting documentation which will be shared with Points of Distribution and Health Plans, though the Health Plans may take their own approach for prioritization.

Q12. When will the vaccine be available to caregivers and family members? When the COVID vaccine becomes available to childcare providers, will it also be available to those living in our homes? As a provider in a Family Child Care Home, I serve children inside my own home, therefore potentially exposing my entire family. Can all adults living in the Family Child Care provider's home get the phase 1b vaccine or only the provider?

A. If your family members help care for the children and are part of your child care they are eligible as "staff" or Assistants. Household members who are not "staff" will qualify according to other criteria. They may be eligible based on age, their work outside the home, etc. They will qualify in the tier that they otherwise meet.

Q13. I already had COVID. Do I still need to be vaccinated?

A. Yes. It is recommended that those who previously had COVID 19 still receive the vaccine.

Q14. I was positive for COVID-19 4 weeks ago; how long should I wait to get vaccinated? How soon after having Covid is it recommended or is it safe to have the vaccine?

According to the CDC, vaccination of persons with known current SARS-CoV-2 infection should wait until the person has recovered from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and [criteria](#) have been met for them to discontinue isolation. This recommendation applies to persons who develop the infection before receiving any vaccine doses as well as those who develop infection after the first dose but before receipt of the second dose.

While there is no recommended minimum interval between infection and vaccination, [current evidence](#) suggests that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection is low in the months after initial



infection but may increase with time due to waning immunity. Thus, **while vaccine supply remains limited**, persons with recent documented acute COVID infection may choose to temporarily delay vaccination, if desired, recognizing that the risk of reinfection, and therefore the need for vaccination, may increase with time following initial infection.

Q15. What is the time between the first and second shot of the vaccine?

According to the CDC, there should be 21 days between the first and second doses of Pfizer vaccine, and 28 days between the first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine. If it is not possible to receive the second dose of vaccine on time, the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines may be administered for **up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose**.

We don't know yet how well the vaccines will work to protect you from SARS-CoV-2 if the second dose is administered after 6 weeks. If you do get your second dose after six weeks, you do NOT need to get a third dose.

Q16. For the individuals that are in 1a that are not getting the vaccines, are they waiting on them?

A. Health care workers in 1a will continue to be offered vaccinations, many by through their employers and the hospital distribution plans and the county. But the county is not ready to move into Phase 1b. The 1a eligible health care providers will continue to be vaccinated.

Q17. Can we pick which drug we want?

All the vaccines being made available in the U.S. have been tested and approved. You may not know in advance which vaccine is being offered at the site you are able to secure an appointment. Better to get vaccinated by either vaccine, then to go unvaccinated.

Q18. Should I make an appointment through my health plan or through another option?

A. Eligible people who are covered by community health clinics, Kaiser or a Sutter affiliate should reach out to their health care provider/health plan for vaccine.

Q19. If you are not a member of Kaiser, can you still go there to get the vaccine?

A. The Kaiser process will likely be for Kaiser patients and health care professionals. There are multiple other options which were described during the webinar. Blue Shield is taking over the state distribution next week and there will be expanding county Points of Distribution (PODs), state PODs, Health Dept. and, eventually, local pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens.

Q20. Will there be specific documentation I, as a child care provider, will need to provide in order to prove I am eligible for the vaccine in phase 1B?

A. The Alameda County Emergency Child Care Response Team is working with the AC Health Dept. to determine ways to help child care providers and their staff to be recognized at qualifying in 1b.

What to bring to your appointment:

- Please bring a form of documentation to verify your identity (driver's license, business card, work ID, bank cards, electrical bill, passport, etc.). Please note that this does not need to be a government issued ID and citizenship is not a requirement to receive a vaccine.



- Consider in advance if your ID displays a name different from the one you use for work, bring any documentation to confirm that you go by more than one name.
- While the State may not require additional verification of your employment, you may want to consider bringing the following:
 - **For Family Child Care (FCC) Home Providers, consider bringing:**
 - **For FCC license holders:** picture of your FCC license
 - **For FCC staff:** picture of the FCC license and signed verification letter from the FCC license holder [Click here](#) for an example template letter)
 - **For Child Care Center staff (licensed & license-exempt), consider bringing:** Signed verification letter from your employer. [Click here](#) for an example template letter)

These may include picture ID's which are not Government Issued ID's, such a Drivers Licenses. It is likely that providers will need a verification letter. The R&R's will be sharing template letters with Emergency Child Care Response Teams Logo. This form letter will be provided for employers to complete for themselves and their staff which should support the verification of your eligibility for being prioritized in phase 1b. Verification may vary by vaccine administrator. For instance, the county PODs operated by Health will be looking for this documentation. The Coliseum operations may require less documentation. Health Plans may function differently in terms of verification. However, providers having personal ID and some other verification could be extremely useful. Providers may want to be sure that the name on their employment verification matches the name on their ID.

For family, friend and neighbors (FFN) and nannies, it is recommended that you obtain a letter from your employer. If you are a subsidized FFN, one option for verification is to use your 1099, which was recently issued by Bananas, 4Cs, Hively and Davis Street.

Q21. I live in a high impacted neighborhood; will I have a priority for the vaccine?

A. Vaccination Points of Distribution (POD's) are planned for zip codes which have been greatly impacted by COVID for all those who live or work in the zip code. **As of mid-Feb., these prioritized neighborhoods and zip codes and anticipated sites include:**

- 1) Deep East Oakland: 94621, 94603**
- 2) South Hayward: 94544**
- 3) Fremont High School: 94606, 94601, 94602, 94605, 94612, 94613, 94621, 94603, 94607**
- 4) Ashland/Cherryland: 94578, 94541, 94580**
- 5) Coliseum State/Federal Mega site: all zip codes above**
- 6) Fairgrounds State/Federal Mega site: Currently serving 65 and over**

Q.22. Will there be dedicated vaccine appointments for teachers and those who work in child care settings? Do I need a special code to access these?

A. There are some appointments being set aside for tier 1b priority eligibles. Some of these appointments may require a code, particularly for those who qualify as living or working in the



priority neighborhoods. The Alameda County Department of Public Health is working with the Child Care R&R's, First 5 and the AC Emergency Child Care Response Team to send notification of availability and invitations push licensed providers in the zip code target neighborhoods.

Q23. How much does it cost to be vaccinated?

A. There is no cost associated with getting vaccinated against COVID-19— regardless of insurance, immigration status, or vaccine phase.

Q24. Is the vaccine going to be mandatory?

A. No. the vaccine is not mandatory. However, based on the history of vaccinations being required in child care, it is likely that it will become mandatory. Please see the response below regarding the **Legal Rights and Implications for Child Care Employers and Staff**.

Q25. What if I not comfortable taking vaccines and instead opt for quarantine when I test positive...will this jeopardize my daycare license?

A. This is your right, but the impact of testing positive for many has resulted in serious illness, long term health impacts, or death. At this time vaccines are not mandatory. However, According to Dr. Fauci, the President's chief medical advisor, "... it would be terrible to have a vaccine - which is extraordinarily efficacious. Ratio is 94% to 95% efficacious in preventing clinical disease. It would be terrible, with a tool as good as that, if people don't utilize that tool."

Notably, the state has required other vaccines for those in child care and may impose this in the future. You may also find that parents may ask about this. For more information about your rights and considerations see also the section below on **Legal Rights and Implications for Child Care Employers and Staff**.

Q26. Can schools require children to get the vaccine?

A. The vaccine is not currently approved for children under 16, though studies are currently underway.

- Ages 16 and older are authorized to receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- Ages 18 and older are authorized to receive the Moderna vaccine.

Q27. Our school is Preschool to 8th grade. In today's ACPHD meeting, we have to submit the names of the staff members according to the priority level. Should I include my preschool teachers to that list?

A. Yes. Preschool operated by school districts should include the preschool staff names according to the priority level. Preschools, and before and afterschool program that are not school district employees but work in partnership or through site agreements will be part of the larger child care vaccination effort.

Q28. Can you talk about the side effects to the vaccine?

A. The side effects are similar to other flu vaccine side effects: soreness of the arm, swelling in the location of the shot, and throughout the rest of the body fever, chills, tiredness, headaches temporary muscle aches, etc. These are all signs that the vaccine is working.



To mitigate side effects you may want to use or exercise your arm, drink plenty of fluids, and/or take over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen as advised by your doctor.

Q29. Can people with an allergy be given the vaccine?

A. The CDC recommends that people with a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications – such as food, pet, venom, environmental (i.e., Hay fever) or latex allergies—get vaccinated. People with a history of allergies to oral medications or a family history of severe allergic reactions may also get vaccinated.

Anyone with a history of anaphylaxis or non-severe immediate allergic reactions to other vaccine should discuss risks of vaccine with your doctor and determine whether to wait to receive the vaccine. If it's decided you can receive the vaccine, you must undergo a 30-minute observation period after receiving it to ensure there's no allergic reaction.

If you have had an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe—to any ingredient in an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC recommends that you should not get either of the currently available mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. For example, People who are allergic to PEG or polysorbate should not get an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The current vaccines, manufactured by Moderna and Pfizer, do not contain eggs or latex.

Q30. Is the vaccine safe? I'm a teacher of children under the age of 6. A lot of people have died from that vaccine.

A. There are numerous online claims of COVID-19 vaccines causing deaths. These have basically been debunked by science and further examination. As of this month over 37 million coronavirus vaccinations have been administered in Germany, Spain, the US, Norway, Belgium and Peru finding that in all cases experts from multiple health authorities could not find causal links between the vaccination and deaths.

Many of the reported deaths were amongst nursing home residents where there were pre-existing conditions in very seriously ill patients. For more information on this topic see <https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-are-covid-19-vaccines-causing-deaths/a-56458746>

Many reports come from prominent anti-vaxxer organizations known for producing misinformation on vaccines and anti-vaccine propaganda.

Q31. Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

A. No. None of the authorized and recommended [COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States](#) contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine **cannot** make you sick with COVID-19.

Q32. I have heard that the vaccine will change my DNA. Is that true?

A. According to the Center for Disease Control, COVID -19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

Messenger RNA vaccines—also called mRNA vaccines—are the first COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States. mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work with the body's



natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease. Learn more about [how COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work](#).

At the end of the process, our bodies have learned how to protect against future infection. That immune response and making antibodies is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

Q33. Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

A. Yes. According to the CDC, people who want to get pregnant in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Based on current knowledge, experts believe that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to a person trying to become pregnant in the short or long term. Scientists study every vaccine carefully for side effects immediately and for years afterward. The COVID-19 vaccines are being studied carefully now and will continue to be studied for many years, like other vaccines.

Q34. What does the research and studies say about the vaccine and pregnant/ breast-feeding women? What is the health advice regarding nursing and lactating mothers?

A. The vaccine trials did not include this group. The CDC [recommends](#) until those studies are conducted, the choice of whether to get vaccinated should rest with the person who is pregnant or lactating.

Q35. I hear that as soon as you get the vaccine, we would be free to see grandparents in person and would be safe to give them hugs. Please confirm.

A. Not exactly. Although COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting sick, scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to others, even if you do not get sick.

If you are vaccinated against COVID-19, you may still be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. After exposure, people can be infected with or “carry” the virus that causes COVID-19 but not feel sick or have any symptoms. Experts call this “asymptomatic infection.”

For this reason, even after vaccination, we need to continue using all the [tools available to help stop this pandemic](#) as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. This issue is being studied further.

But if your grandparents are vaccinated AND you are vaccinated...then you should be able to give them hugs once the vaccine has reached the maximum effect (10 days after your second shot!)

Legal Rights and Implications for Child Care Employers and Staff

Q36. What’s going to happen if I, as a preschool teacher, don’t want to get vaccinated , but the care center where I work asks me to do it. What are my rights to have my choice respected? Can I lose my job because I decided not to get vaccinated?

According to the Child Care Law Center, there is no clear legal authority, yet that allows employers to require or ask employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine. However, based on legal



precedents it is believed that child care employees may be required by their employers to get the COVID-19 vaccine before allowing them to work. However, employers may not be able to fire an employee if they refuse to get the vaccine.

[California Health and Safety Code Section 1596.7995](#) requires family child care home employees to get the flu, pertussis, and measles vaccine. Employers can base the requirement to get the COVID-19 vaccine on this law because employees are already required to undergo mandatory vaccinations for other diseases. Further, family child care providers have a duty of care to ensure children are “accorded safe, healthful and comfortable accommodations.” [Cal. Admin. Code § 101223](#). Requiring employees to get vaccinated ensures that children are in the safest accommodations they can be in.

Under OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970), [employers must make and maintain a safe and healthy place of employment](#). Vaccinated employees can prevent the spread of COVID-19 to the children, their families, and the communities. Employers can explain to their employees that requiring the vaccine will keep the workplace safe and healthy.

Under the ADA, an employee may have an exemption. If an employee requests an exemption, the employer must engage in a good faith interactive process. During that process, the employer may require documentation of the disability and to show the need for the exemption as an accommodation. This JAN (Job Accommodation Network) article addresses [requests for medical documentation under the ADA](#).

For more information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities related to the COVID-19 vaccine, links to Injury and Illness Prevention Plans, and the ADA, check the Child Care Law Center website at <https://www.childcarelaw.org/2020/03/questions-and-answers-about-the-impact-of-the-coronavirus-on-family-child-care-in-california/>

California Small Business Grant

Q37. I received CARES funding through another relief program (e.g., AC FCC COVID Relief Grant, LIIF COVID grant, etc.) Am I still eligible for the CA Small Business Grant?

A. Yes. You are encouraged to apply to all resources you are eligible for. But, to avoid a fraudulent claim or a situation of “double dipping” you should apply for costs that have not been covered under the programs you have already received coverage from.

Q38. Are PPP loans and grants relief the same or different funding from the CA Small Business Grant program?

A. The federal funds for these programs are from respective CARES funds dedicated to COVID relief. Consequently, providers should be mindful, when applying for funding, to not request funding for costs which have been covered under similar CARES programs for small business.

Other Questions



Q39. Can School District Classroom teachers teach both a morning cohort and an afternoon cohort?

A. According to the Health Dept., yes, teachers may teach both a morning cohort and an afternoon cohort. But you should also check with your District regarding whether this is in their plan.

Q40. How can we get notices of meetings like this and others going forward? It was just by luck that I heard about this webinar tonight.

A. We have been focusing on centers and FCC operators and relying on them to get word to their staff. However, we appreciate your comment and will look at building on our registration list for outreach for future webinars.