



# Safe Schools Checklist: How to Get Your School Community Vaccinated and Maintain Safe, In-Person Learning All Year Long

All staff and students age 5+ in K–12 schools are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Now, more than ever, to protect the progress we've made in bringing nearly all schools safely back for in-person learning, it is crucial that schools get as many students and staff vaccinated as possible.

Getting vaccinated is easy, safe, and effective. The newly available vaccine for children ages 5–11 is specifically formulated for kids, and it's more than 90% effective in preventing children from getting infected or having severe symptoms. It is our best defense against the virus, and our best path back to the regular, in-person learning our students and families know and love.

Every school can take action right away to make sure as many members of their school communities as possible get vaccinated.

## Schools—Here's what you can do to help get your staff and students protected

You can use American Rescue Plan and other federal pandemic relief funding for schools to advance these strategies:

- ☑ **Host school-located vaccination clinics.** Hosting a clinic for your school is simple. We have developed [resources](#), [toolkits](#), and other materials to help you implement school-located vaccination clinics. And we can [match you with a vaccine provider](#) in your area to administer shots. Federal pandemic relief funds for schools are available for clinic costs, as well as full federal reimbursement through states.
- ☑ **Institute vaccine requirements for school staff.** Even one unvaccinated teacher can lead to dozens of sick school children. We can protect kids by surrounding them with fully vaccinated people—and vaccine requirements are working to achieve high levels of immunization. The federal government has successfully implemented its vaccine requirement across federal agencies, increasing vaccinations while avoiding disruptions to operations. Guidance for federal agencies is available [here](#).
- ☑ **Encourage all eligible school staff, parents, and family members to get a booster shot.** All vaccinated adults are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster 6 months after their second Pfizer/Moderna shot, or 2 months after their single J&J dose. Boosters can

help increase protection against COVID-19, including severe illness and death. Find a booster site at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

- ☑ **Host family vaccine clinics.** Family vaccination sites serve the whole family, offering primary COVID-19 vaccinations, booster shots, and the vaccine for kids ages 5–11. Learn how to [host these in partnership with local health departments or pharmacies](#).
- ☑ **Distribute information about COVID-19 vaccines through schools.** Parents rely on teachers, principals, school nurses, and other school personnel to help keep their students safe, informed, and healthy every school year. Use resources from [We Can Do This](#) to distribute vaccine information to your parent community.
- ☑ **Host community engagements about the vaccines with local pediatricians and other doctors.** Hosting conversations in partnership with medical professionals in your community can help ensure that parents have access to all the information they need to make their vaccine decisions. Invite a pediatrician by reaching out to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).
- ☑ **Test regularly.** As you work to increase vaccination, testing remains an important strategy to detect and limit the spread of COVID-19 in schools. The federal government provided \$10 billion in funding for COVID-19 screening for teachers, staff, and students in schools. Additionally, CDC has been studying approaches to quarantining and testing, including looking at the science and data of how it may keep school communities safe. CDC will release its findings on these approaches in the coming weeks.

## Parents—Getting your child vaccinated is the best way to keep them safe from COVID

All children age 5+ are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. We encourage all parents to get their children vaccinated to:

- ☑ **Protect your child.** Getting vaccinated helps prevent serious illness and keep your child learning in-person at school all year long.
- ☑ **Protect your whole family, including vulnerable members of your household.** Getting vaccinated protects your child, your relatives and other care providers in your household, and any other loved ones your child spends time with.
- ☑ **Avoid quarantine and interruptions to in-person learning.** Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure to someone with COVID-19. Getting vaccinated helps students and staff remain safely in school.
- ☑ **Be excused from COVID screening tests.** People who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening tests and do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms.

- ☑ **Help prevent extracurriculars, sports, and other activities from getting canceled.** We can facilitate safer participation in activities like sports, band, and chorus by making sure all participants are fully vaccinated.
- ☑ **Help your child keep doing the things they love.** Getting vaccinated can help prevent your child from missing out on the fun of childhood—like sleepovers, birthday parties, sporting events, and more.

We know the path to controlling the virus and limiting variants: get vaccinated, get boosted, and take your children to get vaccinated. Vaccinations for kids are easy, convenient, and free—readily available at more than 35,000 trusted locations.

Don't delay—now is the time. Get vaccinated today by visiting [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).