

COVID-19 Vaccine Questions

What type of COVID-19 vaccine will I be receiving?

You will be receiving the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This vaccine is very similar to the other COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized in the United States (the Pfizer vaccine). For more information on similarities and differences between the two vaccines, please view the slides accompanying the presentation.

How do I schedule an appointment for my second dose of COVID-19 vaccine?

After being vaccinated with your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, you will receive an email from the Health Department with a link to register an appointment for your second dose. This link is specific to you and should not be shared. You do not need to call the Health Department to set up this appointment or register through the public-facing registration system. For the Moderna vaccine (the one you will be receiving), it is ideal to receive a second dose 4 weeks after your first dose, so please schedule your second dose appointment accordingly.

If you have childcare staff that will work in the summer or hired on after this phase will they be able to get the vaccine at that time?

Yes. While additional groups may be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines at that time, childcare staff will still be eligible to schedule an appointment to receive a vaccine.

Will all staff members need to sign up individually, or can one person at an entity sign up all of its staff?

Each staff member will need to make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment separately.

What effect if any does the vaccine have COVID-19 testing?

Neither of the currently authorized vaccines in the United States will cause you to test positive on a COVID-19 test (which tests for current infection). There is a possibility that someone who has received a COVID-19 vaccine may test positive on some antibody tests, but this is being examined further by scientific experts.

Can you please discuss if teachers in private supplementary religious schools in Fairfax can get the vaccine in 1b?

Yes, both public and private school teachers are available to get the vaccine in 1b.

Can we include our volunteer teachers in the list? They have completed all the background checks (Fieldprint, CSR from Richmond)

Yes. They will need proof from your school that they are volunteers at your school.

Are religiously exempt centers considered licensed?

Yes. If you received a notification to attend the meeting, then you are on the list as a licensed center and qualify for this.

Can related service providers, such as a behavioral specialist who provides coaching and technical assistance onsite to our staff and families, be included with our childcare center even though they are contractors not employees of the center?

The behavioral specialist needs to talk to their employer first, if they are not direct employees of their center/school.

We are a private preschool in Falls Church City. Is it OK for our teachers to sign up under the category Fairfax County Private School Employee in the INOVA Center System for vaccination?

Yes. Any school in Falls Church City, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, and the towns of Vienna and Herndon are included in the Fairfax Health District and qualify.

We are a parent run cooperative preschool. Parents are volunteers but are required to work in the classrooms directly with the children. Do they qualify for this group?

Yes.

Are private preschools considered private schools or childcare?

You are designated according to whatever your umbrella organization is. For example, if you are affiliated – or in the same physical space – as a private school, then you are a private school. If you are affiliated – or in the same physical space – as a childcare facility, then you are a childcare facility.

Are our regular subs eligible?

Yes. However, please make sure that they sign up as being with only one institution (in case they sub at other institutions).

Dose this all pertain to preschool teachers too?

Yes

Can daycare workers that are working inside the FCPS schools, supporting virtual learning, go ahead and sign up now to be vaccinated with other FCPS teachers?

Yes

Is a faith-based childcare considered in the group of Private schools currently allowed to register?

If they are employees of the private school, they can be included in the private school scheduling.

Is there a list of high-risk medical conditions that qualify you to be vaccinated?

A list of medical conditions, as specified by the CDC, can be found [here](#).

Is the vaccine safe for pregnant women?

People who are pregnant and part of a group recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may choose to be vaccinated. If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with a healthcare provider may help you make an informed decision.

Is it a problem if I am allergic to thimerosal in contact lens solutions to receive the vaccine? Is this a preservative used?

Thimerosal is not listed as one of the ingredients in either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. You can find the list of vaccine ingredients for Pfizer [here](#) and Moderna [here](#).

Is it safe for people with environmental, food, and medicine allergies to receive this vaccine?

People with a history of food or medication allergies are encouraged to receive the vaccine. Please inform your vaccinator of any concerns and remain for 30 minutes of observation after the injection. You can find the list of vaccine ingredients for Pfizer [here](#) and Moderna [here](#).

Is there egg in the vaccine?

No, neither the Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccines contain eggs.

Does a penicillin allergy impact vaccine?

Please consult your healthcare provider.

Should those who are breastfeeding and get vaccinated?

While breastfeeding is an important consideration, it is rarely a safety concern with vaccines. If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with a healthcare provider may help you make an informed decision.

We have a brand new teacher who does not yet have a school ID or paystub. Is there some other form of documentation the school can provide to allow him to get the vaccine?

A letter from the school, along with a government issued ID should suffice to confirm that the person works at your institution.

We are a private licensed preschool. What kind of ID can we use?

A letter from the school, along with a government issued ID should suffice to confirm that the person works at your institution.

What are the forms of ID needed for vaccine?

A school ID or paystub

How will we receive the link for registration?

The link will be sent by the same agency that sent the invitation to the webinar.

I am a teacher who lives in Loudoun County but teaches in Fairfax County - who do I contact?

Fairfax County.

If I have had COVID-19, can I still get vaccinated? If so, how long do I need to wait before I can get vaccinated?

Yes, you can still be vaccinated, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend waiting at least 90 days from the last day of symptoms. You should also wait 14 days from the last vaccine (e.g. influenza vaccine) you received.

Most K-12 teachers are working remotely while childcare is in person. Why are they prioritized after childcare workers?

Everyone is prioritized in the same group (1B). We are working with Inova to ensure their system is not flooded at once.

How would you prioritize preschools that are currently closed due to the pandemic, but would like to reopen? Having staff vaccinated would make safe reopening possible. Where would those staff fall in prioritization?

If you plan to open once staff are fully vaccinated, you qualify.

Will I need to get vaccinated for COVID-19 yearly, like the flu shot?

Scientists do not know at this time how long protection from authorized COVID-19 vaccines will last. In order to be fully protected,

Is it okay if the second dose is more than the recommended 3 or 4 weeks after the first dose?

Yes. The window for vaccination opens at those times, but it never closes.

Do COVID-19 vaccines protect against the new variants of COVID-19?

Yes, it is believed that both currently authorized vaccines will protect against new variant strains of COVID-19.

Can I be an asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19 after being vaccinated, and potentially transmit to others?

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines protect against symptomatic COVID-19 disease, but it is unknown at this time whether they also protect against asymptomatic COVID-19 infection. Scientists are further examining this question and will know more soon. We will need to continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing until larger numbers of the public are vaccinated and more is known about the vaccines' protection.

If staff have questions or express hesitancy about the speed of COVID-19 vaccine development, how should we discuss this?

[Here](#) is an FAQ with a comprehensive answer explaining this (see "How is the process for approving a vaccine moving so quickly?").

Can I mandate that all staff receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

While we recommend that you strongly encourage all staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19, a mandate cannot be provided to your staff at this time.

Are there any new guidelines coming out for returning all students to school without 6-foot distancing of desks once we have 100% vaccination among staff?

None at this time. The same measures are in place.

Will staff need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 after being vaccinated?

Yes. Full immunity is conferred to 95% of recipients of both doses after several weeks of receiving the second dose. Until then, all protocols will be in place regarding quarantine (if exposed) and isolation (if testing positive). The vaccine does not give off false positives.

If I change employment after being vaccinated, what proof of vaccination will be able to provide to new employers?

You will receive a card at time of vaccination that documents the administration of your first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine.