

March 9, 2021

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued a [new directive](#) that all states immediately make pre-K-12 teachers, school staff and childcare workers eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination.

As of March 8, the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) is prioritizing the vaccination of these individuals during the month of March.

Here is what you need to know.

Who Is Eligible Under the New Directive?

- Teachers and staff in:
 - Pre-K-12 schools
 - Childcare centers
 - Head Start and Early Head Start programs
- Licensed childcare providers, including center-based and family care providers
- Classroom aides
- Bus drivers
- Janitors
- Counselors
- Administration staff
- Cafeteria workers
- Substitute teachers

Where Can Eligible Staff Get Vaccinated?

- They can sign up for an appointment at:
 - Any state or local COVID-19 vaccination site that has available appointments
 - More than 9,000 pharmacy locations nationwide that are participating in the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#)

How to Schedule an Appointment

Teachers, school staff and childcare workers who are interested in getting vaccinated should:

- Visit the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program website](#) to see which pharmacies are participating in their state. Most pharmacy partners are using online scheduling systems to schedule vaccination appointments for those eligible based on their available vaccine supply. They should check their local pharmacy's website to sign up.
- Visit [VaccineFinder.org](#) to find out where the vaccine is available in their community.

- Contact their [state health department's website](#) to find additional COVID-19 vaccination providers in their area.

Additional Resources for You and Your Staff

- [Teachers, School Staff, and Childcare Workers: How to Get Vaccinated Fact Sheet](#)
- [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program – Teachers, School Staff and Childcare Workers: Frequently Asked Questions for Jurisdictions](#)