

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for Childcare Workers

Why is it so important that childcare providers receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Childcare workers are in close contact with children and are at risk for contracting COVID-19. Children under the age of 5 are not currently eligible for vaccination and remain vulnerable to infection. By choosing to be vaccinated, you are doing your part to protect these young people. Additionally, childcare plays a critical role in ensuring businesses remain open because parents are able to return to work. By vaccinating childcare workers, we can also keep the childcare staff at work, and children in childcare.

Which COVID-19 vaccines are available?

COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available for all people ages 5 years and older. In most cases, you do not need to make an appointment, making it easier for you to get your COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. All currently approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and reduce your risk of severe illness and death.

Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson*
Recommended Ages: 5+ years old	Recommended Ages: 18+ years old	Recommended Ages: 18+ years old
Primary Series: 2 doses (21 days apart)	Primary Series: 2 doses (28 days apart)	Primary Series: 1 dose
Booster Dose: All individuals 12+ years old should get a COVID-19 booster dose 5 months after completing their primary series.	Booster Dose: All individuals 18+ years old should get a COVID-19 booster dose 5 months after completing their primary series.	Booster Dose: All individuals 18+ years old should get a COVID-19 booster dose 2 months after completing their primary dose.
When Fully Vaccinated: 2 weeks after 2 nd dose	When Fully Vaccinated: 2 weeks after 2 nd dose	When Fully Vaccinated: 2 weeks after 1 st dose

* All individuals are recommended to receive a primary vaccination series and booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) over the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. This change in guidance comes after reviewing research finding an increased risk of Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia associated with those who have received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

Where are COVID-19 vaccines being offered?

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) [COVID-19 Vaccine Locator](#) can be used to find COVID-19 vaccine in your community.

Who should I contact about providing an on-site vaccination clinic for my employees?

If your facility would like to make plans to vaccinate your employees on-site, there are a few options available:

- If your facility currently contracts with a pharmacy, local public health department, or private health care provider to provide immunizations, like influenza, it is recommended that you contact them first to determine their willingness and availability.
- If your facility does not currently provide on-site immunizations, vaccinators in your area may be willing and able to vaccinate on-site. Please contact local pharmacies or local public health units to determine if this option is available.
- You can request on-site vaccination at [COVID-19 Vaccine Information | Department of Health \(nd.gov\)](https://www.nd.gov/health/covid-19).

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Yes. All COVID-19 vaccines are being studied in large groups of people to ensure they are safe and effective. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history. The CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as soon as possible.

Over 459 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the U.S. Very rare adverse events have been associated with the vaccines, including myocarditis, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, and thrombosis. However, the risk associated with severe COVID-19 disease continues to outweigh any risks associated with the vaccine. Please refer to the [COVID-19 Vaccination website](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/vaccines/index.html) for more information or talk to your health care provider.

Do I still need to wear a mask after I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

The CDC does recommend that fully vaccinated individuals should consider wearing a mask indoors and in crowded outdoor settings in areas with [high numbers of COVID-19 cases](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0922-covid19-cases.html). If you are immunocompromised, you may want to consider continuing to wear a mask in settings with unvaccinated individuals.

Am I required to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

In order to ensure the health and safety of the Federal workforce and the efficiency of the civil service, President Biden issued an Executive Order on September 9, 2021, requiring COVID-19 vaccination for all Federal employees. As of November 22, 2021, Federal employees need to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, except for limited circumstances where an employee has an approved or pending exception or extension.

All other independent employers have the ability to implement their own COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Please check with your employer to see if COVID-19 vaccines are required in your workplace.

I have some concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine. Where can I get more information?

The NDDoH [COVID-19 Vaccination website](#) includes additional information on COVID-19 vaccine. There are videos in the vaccine video library and fact sheets available on a number of topics. Visit health.nd.gov/protect to access these resources.

Additional Resources for Childcare Facilities

- [COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Child Care Providers | Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance System \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources and Information | Childcare.gov](#)
- [Testing & Care | Department of Health \(nd.gov\)](#)
- [Schools | Child Care | Universities | Department of Health \(nd.gov\)](#)