

# **Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Special Initiative**

## **ECE Vaccination- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Early Childhood Education (ECE) Worker Access**

**1. Which Early Childhood staff are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson (J&J) under this Special Initiative?**

This special initiative includes early childhood educators and staff age 18 and older who are employed by a public or non-public PreK-12 school entity, and early childhood program workers age 18 and older who work in the following settings: Child Care; Part Day School Age Programs; Home Visiting Programs; Early Intervention; and Early Childhood programs including Head Start/Early Head Start, Pre-K, and Family Center.

Early childhood staff from Philadelphia are covered in the distribution plan directed by the Philadelphia Department of Health and are not included in this special initiative.

**2. Is the J&J vaccine the only vaccine for this Special Initiative?**

The Special Initiative for J&J Vaccine prioritizes educators, including ECE professionals. However, in accordance with a March 2, 2021, US Health and Human Services Directive, vaccine providers are required to make available and administer any available COVID-19 vaccine to this group of education and early childhood education workers as a part of this special initiative and the traditional vaccine provider network. ECE staff are encouraged to seek the J&J vaccine as doses are being set aside for them in Pennsylvania. They are able to individually schedule for either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines through other currently available providers.

**3. Is vaccination mandatory?**

There are no plans to make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory.

**4. How will ECE staff receive the vaccine under this Special Initiative?**

Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff who are directly employed by PreK-12 public and non-public schools or Intermediate Units (IUs) will receive additional information from their employers. The Departments of Health and Education and PEMA are working with the IUs to set up dedicated vaccination sites for PreK-12 staff across the state.

For all other ECE professionals, childcare providers, and staff of community-based ECE providers, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is coordinating access to the J&J vaccine through a Retail Pharmacy Partnership. OCDEL will issue additional information on accessing vaccine through the Retail Pharmacy Partnership.

**5. Will all ECE staff be able to register immediately?**

ECE staff not employed by a PreK-12 school, childcare providers, and staff of community-based ECE providers will be surveyed to identify all interested individuals requesting to participate in this initiative. Survey results will be shared with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the participating Retail Pharmacy Partners. When individual staff submit the survey, they are agreeing to share information with partners operating within the Special Initiative.

Based on individual demand by ECE staff at the community level, outreach will occur to schedule group or individual vaccination. Either program administrators or individual staff may be contacted at the phone number or email provided in the survey.

**6. Where will ECE staff receive the vaccine under this Special Initiative?**

Each participating Retail Pharmacy Partner will have an individual approach to implementing their vaccination schedule. These partners are aware that ECE staff may have higher demand for evening and weekend appointment times.

If available, ECE Staff may also be offered the opportunity to participate in the Pre-K-12 Vaccination process conducted in partnership with the Intermediate Units. There will be at least one vaccination site per IU region. Pennsylvania National Guard and AMI, a health organization contracted by PEMA, will direct operations and administer doses to school staff at these sites. At this time, J&J COVID-19 vaccine for this Special Initiative is only available at these sites.

**7. When can school, child care and community-based ECE staff begin receiving the vaccination under this Special Initiative?**

Vaccinations for Pre-K-12 public and private school staff at regional vaccination sites are expected to begin operations between March 10-13, 2021.

The Retail Pharmacy Partnerships vaccination sites for community-based ECE and child care workforce under this special initiative will be coordinated based on the results of a survey of participant interest beginning the week of March 15, 2021.

**8. Is there a cost to receive the vaccine?**

Information on all COVID-19 vaccine cost and insurance coverage can be found [here](#).

**9. What are the next steps for the ECE and community-based providers?**

Child care and community-based ECE providers outside of Philadelphia and those not employed by a public or private school or IU will be directed to use an Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) survey to indicate interest in receiving the J&J vaccine. The survey is critical to complete individual community planning for vaccination scheduling. The survey will be submitted by program administrators and will be due by Friday, March 12, 2021.

**10. Where do I find more information about COVID-19 Vaccines if I have more questions?**

Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health COVID-19 website [here](#).