

Hello OVSD Employees:

As we previously shared, OVSD has been collaborating with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and the OC Health Care Agency (OCHCA) to ensure educators who wish to be vaccinated have access to COVID-19 vaccines. Last week, OCDE and OCHCA partnered to open the county's first education-specific POD — short for point of dispensing — in the Garden Grove Unified School District. This location will continue to focus on vaccinating the remaining 1,100 school employees who are at least 65 years old and still in need of one or both doses. **However, starting March 1, vaccinations will be available to all school-based employees in Orange County.**

Here's how the vaccination process will work for school employees:

If you're at least 65 years old or otherwise meet the criteria for Phase 1A an education-specific link has been or will be shared with you. Simply register with your preferred email address and check the Othena app regularly for new appointments.
If you're younger than 65 and have not yet registered through Othena an education-specific link will be shared with you on Friday. Simply register with your preferred email address and check the Othena app regularly for new appointments.
If you're younger than 65 and have already registered through Othena an education-specific link will be shared with you on Friday. Register with a different email address than the one you used previously, and check the Othena app regularly for new appointments.
If you're a school employee who has secured a vaccination elsewhere there's no need to register through the district link.

Once your appointment is confirmed through Othena, you must bring a current paycheck stub and valid driver's license or state-issued I.D. with your date of birth. Those without valid appointments will be turned away.

I should note that even though the state initially discussed categorizing school employees into risk-based tiers based on their roles, officials are no longer pursuing that option. That's because educators and support staff will now be able to go anywhere to get a vaccine, including Super PODs, private clinics, CVS, Rite Aid or their own doctors, and the state believes it would be unmanageable for those providers to independently verify job responsibilities.

Orange County's school PODs will be scheduled to ensure school staff can participate outside their normal working hours, including weekends. In addition, to Garden Grove, plans are already underway to roll out six more education-specific PODs in the weeks ahead in collaboration with local districts. OCDE and its agency partners are discussing targeted locations including the Anaheim, Orange, Santa Ana, Saddleback and Capistrano districts to promote equity and provide convenience for school employees, and more information will be announced soon.

All of this should come as welcome news, but with approximately 150,000 school employees in Orange County, obtaining appointments still may take some time depending on supply levels. Moreover, given this volume, there may be crashes or technical glitches that require extra patience, especially as this process gets started. But OCDE has committed to providing technical support that will enable our staff members to connect with a live, local contact if there are any issues.

We know this is a lot to absorb and developments are quickly evolving, but we are encouraged by the focus on making vaccines available for educators. We are committed to continue to provide you the most current information and facilitate the vaccination of our employees as quickly as supply levels will allow.

Sincerely,

Carol Hansen, Ed.D.
Superintendent
OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT



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