

# School Nurse UPDATE

#9 March 11, 2021

Greetings!

As always, much has transpired in the past two weeks! Vaccination of educators and child care workers has begun or will soon begin around the state. The Department of Health Services (DHS) estimates that with increased vaccine supply **all educators who choose to be vaccinated will have at least one dose by the end of March.**

New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance was released for activities vaccinated individuals may now engage in. Knowledge regarding “vaccine efficacy in the real world” will drive future changes. DHS has reviewed the CDC guidance. **DHS will be updating their websites and communicating their endorsement in the next few days.** I will share revised documents, such as the PowerPoint on vaccines, as soon as that occurs.

In the version of the **Sample COVID Vaccination Letter for Educators** attached to this Update, **I removed the quarantine section in anticipation of DHS changes.** It is important to note that the CDC guidance is for individual behavior of vaccinated individuals in private settings. Workplaces such as schools, because they will contain a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, may choose not to implement the relaxing of certain restrictions at this time.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) does not endorse any companies or services. Knowing that **hazardous waste disposal** is an issue for many school districts, I did include a resource for this under Miscellaneous. See disclaimer on this page.

It is March and, as we hope for a return to some normalcy, plans are being made for the 2021-2022 school year. For school nurses that means looking ahead to immunizations for students. **Practice Points discusses how the pandemic has affected immunization rates and how school nurses can start planning ahead to improve them.**

*Louise*

## FEATURED STORIES

[PRACTICE POINTS – School Nurse Impact on Immunization Rates \(p. 14\)](#)

[DHS Vaccine Efficacy Webpage \(p. 5\)](#)

[Likely Future of COVID-19 \(p. 6\)](#)

[Janssen Vaccine Info \(ACIP p. 7-8\)](#)

[Ventilation in Schools \(p. 9\)](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

Wisconsin School Nurse Network Zoom Meeting-  
March 17, 2021 1:00-2:00 PM. Link to meeting will be sent out 3/15/2021.

NASN2021 Conference-  
Transforming Student Health: School Nurses Leading the Way  
June 24 - June 27, 2021  
(preconference June 23, 2021)

# DPI News

## Vaccine for Educators Reminders

Educators became eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations in Wisconsin on March 1, 2021. Here are some reminders and resources.

School districts must coordinate and communicate with their local or tribal public health departments regarding their vaccination plans. This is crucial given that starting March 15, 2021, the Department of Health Services (DHS) is allocating vaccine doses to the efforts to immunize educators and child care workers. This allocation process is being coordinated through and by the local and tribal public health departments. It does not mean the local or tribal public health department will or must be your district's vaccinator.

Educators and childcare workers became eligible to be vaccinated by any vaccinator on March 1, 2021. Vaccinators are being instructed they do not need to wait for this particular allocation process to begin, to start vaccinating educators and child care workers. They may use the vaccine supply they possess, to vaccinate educators and child care workers starting March 1, 2021.

## DPI COVID Vaccinations for Educators PowerPoint Updated

DHS has indicated that they will use their federal allocations of the J&J/Janssen COVID vaccine for educators and child care workers. The non-branded [PowerPoint](#) on the DPI [School Health Services COVID webpage](#) has been updated to include information and resources on the Janssen vaccine. The intent of the PowerPoint is to provide school nurses and school districts with general information to promote vaccine acceptance among staff and their communities. **The PowerPoint will be updated once again after DHS officially endorses new quarantine guidance for fully vaccinated individuals.**

## Sample Vaccination Letter

As more school districts prepare to vaccinate school staff in the next few weeks DPI has prepared a sample letter about the vaccines, vaccine side effects, and the new CDC interim guidance on fully vaccinated individuals. A Word copy was sent out on March 8 to the school nurse email list. A pdf version is attached to this Update. You may edit to meet your needs. See Greeting for explanation of changes to the attached version.



*School districts must coordinate and communicate with their local or tribal public health departments regarding their vaccination plans.*

*DPI documents will be revised when DHS officially endorses new CDC guidance.*

# DPI News

## School Nurse Podcast on School Nurse Role During COVID

DPI's state school nurse consultant recently recorded a podcast with CESAPurchasing. Below are links to various ways to listen to the podcast. Thank you to CESAPurchasing for giving VOICE to the role, challenges, and benefits of school nursing services for Wisconsin school children!

*The episode "What School Nurses Do to Transition Us to a New Normal" has been published! You can access it at <https://anchor.fm/cesa-purchasing>, along with the links to the other podcasting hosts. Here are the links for some well-known sites as well:*

*Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/4-what-school-nurses-do-to-transition-us-to-new-normal/id1549725376?i=1000511261448>*

*Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/47Wy7N8VYYuAE9NBln4w2>*



## Safe Strong & Healthy Schools

Join us for this conversation series with Wisconsin doctors, educators, scientists, and leaders exploring the ways that schools and districts can build "Safe, Strong & Healthy Schools."

This spring, the series will explore the impacts of COVID-19 on schools and on child health. The conversations [in the episodes below](#) will feature presentations from physician leaders in pediatrics, infectious disease, mental health, and other relevant fields addressing important questions like:

- How do we ensure safe child- and staff-centered protocols for welcoming everyone back to the classroom?
- What is the scientific evidence driving these decisions?
- What will school districts need to consider for children and staff wellbeing as schools phase in in-person learning and teaching?
- What should districts anticipate around behavioral and mental health needs of students and staff?
- And much more—including questions submitted by attendees!

Access webinars [here](https://www.healthykidsdane.org/safeschools). <https://www.healthykidsdane.org/safeschools>

*Safe Strong & Healthy Schools series will explore the impacts of COVID-19 on schools and on child health.*

# DHS News

## Respiratory Report

[The Weekly Respiratory Report](#) (detailing influenza data) is available and updated bi-weekly.

## Vaccinator Map

On February 26, DHS released a new resource aimed at helping people connect with vaccine providers in their area. The [Wisconsin COVID-19 vaccinator map](#) is designed to improve transparency in the vaccine distribution process, by identifying where vaccine is being sent across the state.

## DHS and Laboratory Partners Identify a Second Variant Strain of SARS-CoV-2 in Wisconsin

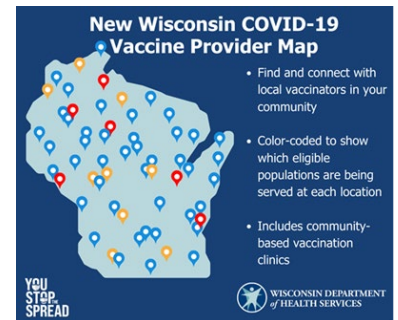
On March 4, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and laboratory partners identified a [second variant strain of SARS-CoV-2](#), the virus that causes COVID-19, in Wisconsin. This variant strain differs from variant B.1.1.7, which was first identified in Wisconsin on January 12, 2021. In Wisconsin, strain B.1.351 was identified through ongoing surveillance and whole genome sequencing, a routine practice since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. All viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19, change through mutation. We can expect additional new variants of the virus to occur over time.

## COVID-19: Vaccine Registry

[The Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry](#) allows Wisconsin residents to register for and schedule COVID-19 vaccinations locally – when they are eligible, and as vaccine becomes available. Those who are not eligible or are unable to get an appointment have the option of being placed on a wait list. The vaccine registry will be used by those who opt in and will not be a comprehensive resource for all vaccination options.

Local and tribal health departments have the option of using the vaccine registry to help with safely and effectively distributing and administering COVID-19 vaccines. **Not all vaccine providers using this system will be participating as of the launch date in early March, and more will be added over time.**

The [vaccine registry](#) is now available. If you live in an area where the vaccine registry is available and have questions or need help registering, call (844) 684-1064 (toll-free) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.



*All viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19, change through mutation. We can expect additional new variants of the virus to occur over time.*

# DHS News



## New Vaccine Safety and Efficacy Webpage

A vaccinated person has a far lower risk of getting severely sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19, no matter which vaccine they get. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy](#) on DHS's new webpage. The webpage contains information about the available COVID-19 vaccines; vaccine efficacy; different types of vaccines; and how vaccines are developed.

## Clarifying FAQs on Educator Eligibility

The DHS COVID-19: Am I Eligible for the Vaccine? [webpage](#) contains drop down boxes answering questions on eligibility of school board members, substitute and student teachers, higher education students doing practicums, and coaches.

## Eligible Groups

Are school board members eligible at the same time early childhood, child care centers, and K-12 schools are eligible?	▲
Are student and substitute teachers included under the educators and child care group?	▲
Are higher education students doing practicums in child care, K-12 school buildings, or those required to complete time in the classroom who are not traditional student teachers included in under education and child care as of March 1?	▲
Are coaches eligible under education and child care as of March 1?	▲

# MMWR

Association of State-Issued Mask Mandates and Allowing On-Premises Restaurant Dining with County-Level COVID-19 Case and Death Growth Rates – United States, March 1–December 31, 2020. PDF of this report ([link](#)).

# NASN News

## **NASN Releases 2019-2020 Annual Report**

NASN has released its 2019-2020 Annual Report, which includes key information on how school nurses and NASN are leading the way, from the number of students school nurses cared for to the influence of the NASN brand, as we spoke on behalf of school nurses in multiple media outlets on the COVID-19 pandemic. NASN also shares the programs that are working to provide school nurses with knowledge and professional development to excel in their communities and schools. [Read the Annual Report.](#)



## Medscape Nurses

### **School Nurses: Keeping School Children, Families, and Communities Healthy**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the work of school nurses, who play a critical role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of children, families, and communities. They're particularly integral to healthcare access for children whose health is impacted by social determinants. In fact, many consider school nurses the hidden healthcare system for vulnerable youth. Widespread understanding of the breadth and depth of professional school nursing is needed to ensure the growth of this critically important nursing specialty and to protect children's health. [Read more.](#)

### **The Likely Future of COVID-19? More Than Polio, Less Than Flu** Interesting commentary by F. Perry Wilson MD, MSCE

[https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/946609?src=WNL\\_mdpls\\_210305\\_mscpedit\\_nurs&uac=308426EY&spon=24&impID=3230425&faf=1](https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/946609?src=WNL_mdpls_210305_mscpedit_nurs&uac=308426EY&spon=24&impID=3230425&faf=1)

### **No Flu Season Will Affect Next Year's Vaccine Prep**

Experts predicted that the 2019/20 flu season in the Northern Hemisphere would be a bad one. And then it wasn't. The COVID-19 pandemic hit, international travel ground to a halt, physical distancing and mask wearing became more common, and the flu went away. [Read more.](#)

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# ACIP

## ACIP Approval of Janssen Vaccine

ACIP's recommendation on use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine was approved by the CDC Director on February 28 and was published in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\) on March 2](#). ACIP's recommendation to add Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to the available vaccines in the United States offers two practical benefits; the vaccine is administered as a one-dose regimen, and it is stored at refrigerated temperatures. The [FDA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) and the [CDC](#) and [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#) websites should be consulted for a rapidly expanding list of resources on the vaccine's use. Basic information on the Janssen vaccine follows.

**Authorized age group:** The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is authorized for use in persons 18 years of age and older.

**Platform:** The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is a recombinant "replication-incompetent" vaccine, meaning it is incapable of replicating within the human body and is not considered a live virus vaccine. Unlike the mRNA approach used by the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, the Janssen vaccine uses adenoviruses that contain a DNA gene segment that causes human cells to manufacture COVID-19 spike proteins, triggering a strong immune response and the development of antibodies to COVID-19. This adenovirus type 26 (Ad26) platform has been previously used for an Ebola vaccine licensed in Europe. The vaccine does not contain adjuvants, antibiotics, or preservatives.

**Use in Pregnancy:** There are currently few data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in [pregnant people](#). If pregnant people are part of a group that is recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., healthcare personnel), they may choose to be vaccinated.

**Use with Other Vaccines:** There are no data available on the use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to complete a series started with another COVID-19 vaccine. There also are no data on use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine with other vaccines, such as influenza. Per CDC's clinical use guidance, providers should allow at least 14 days between administration of COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine.



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# ACIP

## ACIP Approval of Janssen Vaccine (Cont.)

**Vaccine Efficacy:** Over 44,000 persons were included in the vaccine's Phase 3 clinical trial, which was conducted in areas (e.g., United States, South Africa, Brazil) where COVID-19 incidence was highest and where variants were emerging. In the United States portion of the trial, vaccine efficacy (VE) was 72 percent against moderate to severe/critical disease 14 days after receipt of a single dose. Across all countries, this VE was 66 percent. Importantly, beyond 28 days after vaccination, the vaccine was highly effective (85 percent) against severe COVID-19 disease, with no COVID-19-related hospitalizations or deaths reported among recipients. Efficacy in preventing severe disease was consistent across races, ethnicities, and age groups studied, including among adults 60 years of age and older, and those infected with an emerging viral variant. Of note, the Phase 3 trials of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine and those of the previously authorized mRNA vaccines should not be compared head-to-head, as they were conducted at different times and across different geographic areas, and they were tested against different circulating variants.

**Vaccine Safety:** The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine was well-tolerated by all participants, including adults age 60 years and older and those with underlying health conditions. Most adverse events (AEs) following vaccination occurred within one to two days of vaccination and were mild or moderate. Approximately one-half (49 percent) of vaccine recipients reported injection-site pain, with headache (39 percent), fatigue (38 percent), and muscle ache (33 percent) being the next most frequently reported AEs. Reported AEs were less common among persons 60 years of age or older. No anaphylaxis was observed during the Phase 3 clinical trial, although one hypersensitivity reaction (not classified as anaphylaxis) was likely related to the vaccine. The adenovirus vector does not replicate and is not integrated into cellular DNA.

**Vaccine Expiration:** Currently, Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine has a shelf life of three months. Because it is possible an extended interval may receive FDA authorization in the future, the company established an expiry checker page. Providers can enter the lot number found on the product carton or vial to obtain the product's expiration date.



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# CDC

## Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs

Ventilation is one component of maintaining healthy environments, and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for schools and childcare programs. To improve ventilation in schools or childcare programs, [Read more](#)

- Bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
- Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation.
- Filter and/or clean the air in your school or childcare program.
- Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens.
- Open windows in transportation vehicles.

## New Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> and When You've Been Fully Vaccinated How to Protect Yourself and Others <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.

## Gatherings

CDC continues to recommend that large gatherings be avoided, particularly those in which physical ([social](#)) [distancing](#) cannot be maintained between people who live in different households. This guidance is intended for those who are planning a large event, such as sporting events, concerts, festivals, conferences, parades, or weddings. CDC also has resources for those [attending large events](#) and [visiting with family and friends](#).

CDC offers the following guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Event planners should work with [state and local health officials](#) to implement this guidance, adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community. This guidance is meant to supplement—**not replace**—any state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which gatherings must comply. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>



*Ventilation is one component of maintaining healthy environments, and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for schools and childcare programs.*

# Miscellaneous

## Project Adam Heart Safe School Virtual Workshops

See picture at right for dates. Register at:

<https://www.projectadam.com/Winter2021>

## OMH Releases #VaccineReady Video Series

The HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) has created a [#VaccineReady video](#) series to empower communities to proactively practice COVID-19 safety measures, get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines, share accurate vaccine information, and get vaccinated when the time comes.

Subscribe to the OMH YouTube channel to stay updated on the [#VaccineReady video](#) series and learn when vaccinations are offered in your area.

## Top Tips from Nurses On Dealing With Burnout

Our team at [NurseJournal.org](http://NurseJournal.org) wants to help our brave frontline workers with burnout, so we created a guide detailing tips from seasoned nurses on how they deal with it. This resource includes strategies and resources for spotting burnout, preventing burnout, and coping with burnout. <https://nursejournal.org/resources/tips-for-avoiding-nurse-burnout/>

## Nominate the 2021 School Social Worker of the Year!

Promote a colleague whom you feel is deserving of the SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD! Celebrate a social worker who you think deserves this special recognition. [Nomination form here](#). On the form, please share how the nominee is exceptional in two of the four areas on the Wisconsin School Social Worker Evaluation Framework. Read about past recipients in the [awards](#) section on our website. Deadline: May 21, 2021.

## Biohazard Waste Resource

Madison Environmental Resourcing Inc. ([MERI](#)), has been contacted by several school districts to pick up their biohazard waste as part of their COVID-19 vaccine clinics. We are a non-profit partnership of Madison area hospitals and provide both pickup and mailback service throughout the state. Call us at (608) 257-7652, use this [contact page](#) to arrange for a pickup, or visit our [mailback kit](#) site for various disposal options.



*Seeking  
nominations for  
School Social  
Worker of the Year.*

# CDC Healthy Schools

## Kids Can Fuel Their Day With a Nutritious School Breakfast

It's National School Breakfast Week! Did you know that eating school breakfast is linked with better attendance, higher grades and test scores, and improved concentration and memory? Let school provide your child with a nutritious and delicious school breakfast!

The US Department of Agriculture has extended free meals to kids for the rest of the 2020–2021 school year. Some parents may be hesitant for their child to receive free school meals because they think they would be taking the meal from a child who needs it more. That is simply not the case. Regardless of their household income, all children 18 and under can access free and nutritious school breakfast *and* lunch each day through the end of June 2021. More healthy meals served means more funding for their school district's nutrition program.

Parents should also know that students who participate in the [school meal programs](#) consume more whole grains, milk, fruits, and vegetables when eating school meals and have better overall diet quality than students who don't participate. Whether children are learning from home or in-person, schools are using a variety of methods to [safely distribute meals to students](#), including meal kits, drive-through pickups, bus route deliveries, and meals in the classroom. Parents can check with their school district's website for information on how to safely access school meals.

You can spread the word using our [partner toolkit](#) and [visit our website](#) and [web feature](#) for more information about school nutrition and the benefits of school meal programs.



*The US Department of Agriculture has extended free meals to kids for the rest of the 2020–2021 school year.*

## Miscellaneous

### Testing Mobile Air Purifiers In a School Classroom

New research was published online in the *Journal of Aerosol Science and Technology* focused on the benefits of mobile air purifiers with HEPA filters in school settings. The use of mobile air purifiers with HEPA filters was shown to reduce the aerosolized load of particles in school settings. The research was in a high school and researchers found that the aerosol concentration was reduced by more than 90 percent within less than 30 minutes when running the purifiers. [Learn more.](#)

# Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin

## Executive Director Karen Ordinans to Retire at the End of March

After 18 years of serving as the Executive Director for Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin (Alliance), Karen Ordinans is set to retire at the end of March. Karen has led the Alliance to continued growth and has embraced our mission of being Wisconsin's voice for children's health.

Under Karen's leadership, the Alliance has grown to include the initiatives of Asthma, Early Literacy, Emergency Care, Grief and Bereavement, Injury Prevention and Child Death Review, Medical Home and Oral Health. Karen has led the Alliance to numerous successes and has done so in a fearless yet humble fashion. Karen has built and led coalitions and championed policy that makes a difference in the lives of children and their families.

Read more about [Karen's journey to becoming Executive Director](#) and her accomplishments and achievements along the way.

# AAP

## AAP COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports and Physical Activity

*Updated 3/1/2021*

In updated interim guidance, the AAP recommends that pediatricians consider anyone who participates in any physical activity, organized or not, to fall within the context of the guidance. The guidance also explains when and how youths with COVID-19 can resume physical activity and sports. It also has new information on the use of masks and other ways to mitigate the risk of transmitting SARS-CoV-2 during physical activity.

Updated Interim Guidance: [Return to Sports and Physical Activity](#)



*This guidance is intended for pediatricians to inform families on how to mitigate risk and prevent the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19, to others within sports and other physical activities.*

# Allergy & Asthma Network



The Asthma and Allergy Network hosts various webinars of interest to school nurses. The webinars are recorded. The video recording and slides from the most recent webinar:

COVID-19: Building the Bridge to the Next Normal

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/news/building-the-bridge-to-the-next-normal-covid-19/> is available on their website.

Upcoming webinars: For more information and to register:

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/allergy-asthma-webinars/>

March 17: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in High Risk Communities

March 25: Breathe Easier: Smoking Facts and Cessation Tips

Past webinar links:

COVID-19 Infocenter (with links to all other related COVID content)

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/health-a-z/covid-19/>

COVID-19 Reported Allergic Reactions

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/news/statement-on-covid-vaccine/>

COVID-19 and Asthma: What You Need to Know

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/news/covid-vaccine-and-asthma/>

COVID-19 vs Asthma: How to Tell the Difference

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/news/covid-19-vs-asthma/>

COVID-19 vs Allergies vs Flu (infographic)

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/images/Distinguishing-the-Difference-COVID-19-Allergies-Flu.pdf>

Why Face Masks are Critical During the COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/news/why-face-masks-are-critical-for-people-with-asthma-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

*The Asthma and Allergy Network hosts various webinars of interest to school nurses. The webinars are recorded.*

# Practice Points

By Louise Wilson

## School Nurses Impact Immunization Rates

I recently had a meeting with the Department of Health Services (DHS) immunization program to discuss immunization of students. I shared that school nurses already are, or soon will be, making plans to connect with families to inform them of back-to-school immunization requirements. I find it amusing that others outside of school nursing find it amazing that school nurses are such forward thinkers and would be making plans five months in advance.

My simple message to you is that we in the public health and private health sectors need to work together to encourage parents/caregivers to get their children “caught up” on immunizations. It is not news to you that children missed immunization opportunities last spring/summer/fall due to the pandemic. Some parents were hesitant of taking their children in to clinics, fearing exposure to COVID-19. Others had logistical issues given that our school and work patterns were totally disrupted.

DHS is working to create messaging materials that school nurses can use to promote childhood immunizations even as we remain under the shroud of this COVID-19 pandemic. I have been approached by other entities interested in promoting childhood vaccinations who are doing the same. As I receive these materials I will pass them on via email. DHS and these entities recognize the important reach and power school nurses have to educate communities about public health practices!

Plans are in the works to update the DHS online “Immunization Booklet.” There will be a joint DHS/DPI immunization webinar (recorded) this summer—date and time TBD. There are no new immunization requirements for the upcoming school year. The proposed changes (Tdap to 7<sup>th</sup> grade, varicella waiver, Meng-B) are all on hold pending legislative approval. I can assure you that schools will get 12-18 months’ notice if and when these changes go into effect.



*... we in the public health and private health sectors need to work together to encourage parents/caregivers to get their children “caught up” on immunizations.*

*DHS and these entities recognize the important reach and power school nurses have to educate communities about public health practices!*

There will be immunization compliance reports to complete this fall, just as there were in 2020. Final determinations on options for reporting the data is pending. DHS is well aware of the barriers schools have in collecting immunization information and the trend in 'behind schedule' or 'incomplete' vaccinations for students. DHS is also aware how this affected your compliance rates for 2020, may affect your rates for 2021, and the implications for mandatory exclusion as stated in statute. My message to schools is "do your best" when it comes to immunization reporting and compliance for the fall.

However, coming full circle from a public health standpoint, encouraging families to immunize their children and get caught up as necessary, is critical to prevent the emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases emerging in our child population. Once in that population those diseases will creep into the general population. We have seen recent evidence of this with measles. No one wants to see post-COVID epidemics of measles, pertussis, polio etc.!

As capacity allows, start planning your back-to-school messaging and immunization record collection plans. More resources will be shared in the coming months to assist you with this.



*...encouraging families to immunize their children and get caught up as necessary, is critical to prevent the emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases emerging in our child population.*

This publication is available from:  
Learning and Support  
Student Services Prevention and Wellness Team  
(608) 266-8857  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pupil-services/school-nurse>

March 2021 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

The Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation or disability.



## COVID Vaccination for Educators Sample Letter

The following information is being provided to assist you in making decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccination. If you are hesitant at this time to get vaccinated there will be opportunities in the future other than that arranged by the school district on your behalf. This document also contains information about post vaccination expectations.

There are three COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized and recommended for use in the United States, and two other vaccines are currently in large-scale clinical trials. To learn more about the different vaccines for COVID-19 and how vaccines work, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>

None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use in the United States uses the live virus that causes COVID-19. You may have symptoms like a fever after you get a vaccine. This is normal and a sign that your immune system is learning how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about the facts behind COVID-19 vaccines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

### **Considerations when planning to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine:**

- No other vaccinations within 14 days before or after the COVID vaccine
- Need to wait 15-30 minutes after vaccination for observation
- The second dose must be the same vaccine as the previous dos.
- Employees need to schedule an appointment for the second dose

### **Side effects**

Side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine are normal signs your body is building protection. Side effects may even feel like flu and might affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. **Learn more:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

The most common side effects from the COVID vaccines are:

- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fever or Chills

Side effects may occur during the first week after vaccination but are most likely one or two days after receipt of the vaccine. See [Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#) for more information including helpful tips and when to seek medical attention.

### **Return to Work**

An employee with the presence of **ANY** systemic signs and symptoms (fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain, and joint pain) that are consistent with post-vaccination side effects may consider returning to work **without** viral testing for SARS-CoV-2 if they meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- Feel well enough to work,



- Are willing to work,
- Are afebrile (without fever), **AND**
- Systemic signs and symptoms are limited only to those observed following COVID-19 vaccination (i.e. do not have other signs and symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or change in smell or taste).

Respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell are **not** consistent with post-vaccination symptoms, and instead may be symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 or another infection. If a person presents with ANY of the above symptoms, they need to stay home and contact their medical provider for more guidance and/or seek out a COVID-19 test.

### **CDC Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published *Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> and *When You've Been Fully Vaccinated How to Protect Yourself and Others* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen).<sup>‡</sup> The following recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at [increased risk for severe COVID-19](#) disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations