



COVID-19 update

Keeping you informed

As California's COVID-19 vaccination efforts extend through Phase 1A and into select Phase 1B populations, some of your clients' workforce may be eligible for vaccination.

Phase 1B eligibility includes those 65 and over along with workers in education and childcare ¹, emergency services ², and food and agriculture ² sectors.

- [Learn more about California's COVID-19 vaccination prioritization phases](#)
- [Learn more about California's worker sector populations](#)

Vaccination locations are expanding. Vaccination administration now includes locations managed by county health departments, hospitals and providers, and select retail pharmacy partners. CVS and Rite Aid will be provided vaccine supplies for some California locations this week, as part of the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#).

With these updates, employers should keep in mind the following:

- Vaccine supplies are still limited, and eligibility does not equal availability. County health departments can further determine prioritization of populations within Phase 1B.
- Phase 1B encompasses only [essential workers](#). Vaccine eligibility may vary within a company. For example, a grocery store clerk may qualify under Phase 1B criteria while a person working in the store's corporate headquarters may not.
- Scheduling an appointment is currently required by vaccination locations. We recommend that individuals check their county health department website for more information.
- Vaccination sites may have differing eligibility documentation requirements, such as worker badge or pay stub. Individuals should confirm requirements when scheduling.
- Currently, we are unaware of any onsite vaccination services for employer groups.

Blue Shield will be sending concurrent communications to employers and members as well, informing them of Phase 1B eligibility. Our [COVID-19 Resources site](#) contains more information on the vaccine, including resources to share with employees.

You can find the latest COVID-19 news and articles from Blue Shield by visiting our [News Center](#) or receive updates in your inbox by [subscribing](#) today.

¹Persons at risk of occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 through their work in any role in the following Education and Child Care settings

- All formal and informal childcare workers, including day care providers
- All staff in colleges, universities, junior colleges, community colleges, and other postsecondary education facilities
- All staff in educational support services and administration
- All staff in Pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high schools
- All staff in technical and trade schools
- Any other workers involved in child and/or student care, including school bus drivers and monitors, crosswalk guards, etc.

²Persons at risk of occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 through their work in any role in the [Emergency Services & Food and Agriculture Sectors from CA Essential Workforce](#) list and any employee working in a restaurant to the extent not described in the Food and Agriculture Sectors from the CA Essential Worker list.

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DAP 35061