

# **Major Urban School District Efforts to Vaccinate School-age Students**

## **Compiled by the Council of the Great City Schools**

**June 10, 2021**

### **Albuquerque Public Schools**

The Albuquerque school district started a campaign called [Start Summer Safe](#) that is encouraging students 12 and up to register with the state for the vaccine. The district has also used this campaign to help get the word out about two clinics the state is hosting this week for 12-15-year-olds (at a coliseum). Information was shared through normal channels -- digital flyers, district and school websites, social media, newsletters, local media. The district has been helping vaccinate city residents since December 2020.

### **Anchorage School District**

The Anchorage school district has held its first student focused clinic and will hold weekly pop-up clinics throughout the summer. Students are involved in the state's "Sleeves Up for Summer" COVID-19 vaccination campaign, urging all Alaskans to get their COVID-19 vaccine. The Anchorage school district was one of the first school systems in the country to offer vaccinations through the schools to citizens at large.

### **Arlington Independent School District (Arlington, TX)**

The Arlington (TX) school district partnered with the Arlington Fire Department to offer vaccinations to all students 12 years old and up, staff members and family members at the athletics center on May 17 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Appointments were not necessary, and transportation was provided from the district's six traditional high school campuses for those who did not want to drive to the center. More than 1,500 first doses were administered. The district will host the second dose of the vaccination at the same location on June 7. Any student under 18 was required to have a parent or guardian present with them and a signed consent form.

### **Aurora Public Schools (Colorado)**

APS is excited that all Coloradans ages 12 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We are partnering with STRIDE Community Health Clinic and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) to host FREE vaccination clinics for our families. The clinics will be open to individuals ages 12 and older. Students must have a parent or guardian present. One does NOT need to be a U.S. citizen to receive a vaccine. Providers cannot require ID before offering you a vaccine. Also, state and local public health agencies will NEVER share your information for any immigration or law enforcement purposes. School-located vaccination sites will open on June 12 and run through the summer at various district middle and high schools. See <https://aurorak12.org/VACCINE/> for more information, locations, and dates.

## **Austin Independent School District**

The Austin Independent School District has provided more than 25 vaccine clinics to the community, offering more than 10,000 individual vaccine opportunities. These pop-up clinics are open on school grounds, bringing the opportunity for a vaccine to families throughout the community, mostly at Title 1 schools. The clinics are always no cost and open to family members. The district never asks for ID or documentation to lower the barrier to entry. Many participants do not need an appointment. The district also ensures that second-dose clinics are in the same location as the first to keep them accessible. Since April 17, the district has been vaccinating ages 16 and older with the Pfizer vaccine and has been including ages 12 and older since May 13.

The clinics are organized by the Austin ISD health department in coordination with local public health entities, private businesses, the school communities, and more. The district will continue offering the clinics as long as it sees a need in the community.

## **Birmingham Public Schools**

The Birmingham City Schools and Alabama Regional Medical Services will make COVID-19 vaccines available to students 12 and up and their families starting Wednesday, June 2, at Wenonah High School. The clinic will start at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Appointments are available, and walkups will be accepted. Another clinic will be offered at Wenonah on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at the same times. “This is our best shot for a safe return to in-person learning and extracurricular activities in the next school year,” said Superintendent Dr. Mark Sullivan. “We want all of our students to return safely to in-person learning and enjoy the full school experience when classes resume on August 2.”

WHAT: COVID-19 Vaccinations

WHEN: Wednesday, June 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Wenonah High School

2800 Wilson Road

Birmingham, AL 35211

## **Broward County Public Schools**

The Broward County Public Schools (Fort Lauderdale) formed a partnership with the Florida Department of Health-Broward (FDOH-B), when schools first closed in March 2020. FDOH-B has and continues to be a local source of professional medical guidance to the school district on conditions for school reopening and COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

When vaccines became available, they were first administered by FDOH-B to teachers and staff at Broward County Parks. Once vaccines were offered to students, schools opened for students as well as their families to receive the vaccine.

This [communication](#) was distributed to parents, teachers, and staff and includes a list of schools, dates and times vaccinations that are available at school locations.

BECON-TV, the school district's television station, is shooting b-roll at one of our schools, which we will be sent to local media for them to include in the news. This has been our practice as each age group opens for vaccines and has been extremely effective in capturing media attention.

### **Buffalo Public Schools**

The Buffalo school district is using revolving sites among its 65 schools on weekends in conjunction with the city's Department of Health. The district is looking into getting its own supply of the vaccine and expanding its efforts.

### **Charleston County School District**

The Charleston County School District in South Carolina is working with local providers to provide vaccinations to staff and students in the school district. Staff vaccinations were provided at central locations on e-learning days (students were at home and given assignments *via* computer). Student vaccinations were given at schools, while school was in session or after school. After school vaccination clinics were open to family members of students.

16+ students- April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
630 first doses at 10 high schools

12+ students and family- May 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>  
519 first doses at 2 middle schools; more vaccine clinics scheduled.

### **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina partnered with Mecklenburg County Public Health and health care providers to offer vaccine clinics for students on May 22. More than 1,000 vaccines were provided at the free COVID-19 vaccination clinics held at seven schools. The clinics will also be open June 12 for participants to receive their second shots.

### **Clark County School District (Las Vegas, NV)**

The Clark County School District (CCSD) is working closely with the Southern Nevada Health District and University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) to promote vaccination clinics that are available for anyone 12 years or older interested in receiving the vaccine.

CCSD has numerous school-based vaccination clinics around the county hosted by the Southern Nevada Health District with CCSD nurses assisting with the inoculations.

The information has been shared with all parents via ParentLink, and it has been shared with media and through CCSD's social-media channels.

### **Cleveland Metropolitan School District**

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has partnered with The State of Ohio's Mass Vaccination Clinic at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center. The district provided round trip transportation from fifteen high school locations to the Wolstein Center for students, families, and community members that were interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Those individuals who expressed interest were bused from the school in their community to the clinic for their first dose on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and bused for their second dose on May 24<sup>th</sup>, through May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

CMSD also partnered with The Cleveland Department of Public Health to offer the opportunity to be vaccinated to students, staff, *that have not already been vaccinated*, and to those in the school community at no cost to the school district or families within the district. The partnership with CDPH allowed the district to host pop-up vaccine clinics in school buildings during the academic school year, and it will continue this effort during the district's [Summer Learning Experience](#). The first clinic for students 16 and above was held the week of May 2, 2021, and continued throughout the week at various locations. Clinics for second doses were held the week of May 23, 2021, while also offering first doses at those clinics. CMSD will continue to conduct rolling clinics (offering both first and second doses) at school district sites throughout the summer. The district also plans to partner with CDPH physicians to host an informational session, Q&A style to decrease vaccine hesitancy by ironing out myths of COVID-19 vaccines, for families in both high school and elementary schools during the district's Summer Learning Experience.

### **Columbus Public Schools**

#### *STUDENTS 16 AND OLDER:*

Columbus City Schools has hosted informational sessions and vaccination clinics for students 16 and older and will soon host clinics for students 12 and older in mid-June.

The school district's Superintendent and Department of Engagement, along with its partners from Columbus Public Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital, have hosted multiple informational sessions to discuss how the vaccination process will work and answer any questions about Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for teens.

In partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital and Columbus Public Health, Columbus City Schools provided all CCS students ages 16 and older with the opportunity to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as of April 26, 2021. Students received the Pfizer vaccine in two doses based on their cohort schedule. The first-dose clinics were held on April 26, 27, 29, and 30. The second-dose clinics were held on May 17, 18, 20, and 21. Columbus City Schools provided yellow bus transportation to and from the clinic sites. Four hundred seventy-nine students participated in the clinics in the April clinics.

#### *STUDENTS 12 AND OLDER:*

The school district will host four additional vaccination clinics over the summer, June 17 and 18, for students 12 and up and their family members to get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These clinics will again be in partnership with Columbus Public Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

All clinics are first-come, first-served. If students are attending a Columbus City Schools summer school, transportation will be available during the school day, and parents are not

required to attend. Transportation may be available for all other students and families from select locations.

### **Dallas Independent School District**

Dallas Independent School District in Texas is working with Dallas County Health and Human Services and Dallas' Parkland Hospital to provide free COVID-19 vaccinations for students ages 16 and up. Permission slips were sent to eligible families at the campuses earlier this month.

Students who returned their signed consent forms were bused to one of two locations to receive the Pfizer vaccine, which started the week of May 17. Additionally, the district will provide transportation for the second dose, beginning the week of June 7 for students who received the first shot.

Each bus was staffed with a member of the Health Services department to be on board, to address any health concerns during the transition to and from campus. The school district understands the FDA approved 12- to 15-year-olds for the Pfizer vaccine, however, at this time the plan is to focus on the older students, and conversations will continue regarding additional offerings.

### **Dayton Public Schools**

The district partnered with the Dayton Children's Hospital in Ohio to have in-school COVID-19 vaccination clinics for both students who are at least 12 years of age and older and their family members. (Initially, the clinics were only offered for those 16+ until the Pfizer vaccine was also approved for those 12-15.) At this time, clinics are being held at 2 high schools and 2 middle schools.

In addition, the school district's Public Information Office has worked to promote vaccine clinics elsewhere in the community to keep parents and students informed about all vaccine locations.

### **Denver Public Schools**

The Denver Public Schools in Colorado has been primarily working with Denver Health and Children's Hospital of Colorado to provide vaccinations of both staff and students. The district made it a top priority to facilitate vaccine access to students and their families through intentional outreach and vaccination events. As vaccines became available to specific members of the student population, namely those at higher risk of severe COVID, district officials worked with their partners to send targeted outreach to students and their families. Since vaccines became available to the broader population, including students 16 and up and now children 12 and up, the district has continued to share vaccine availability and access to students and their families through a robust communications campaign. In partnership with Denver Health, the school district also held 13 vaccination events at school sites around the city and has 6 more scheduled in June. The district plans to host additional vaccination events later in the summer and next year. Students and their families can register for vaccines directly through Denver Health or Children's Hospital's web portals or they can contact School-Based Health Centers. The district is also working with other health care providers to promote additional vaccine

access. Additional details on vaccination efforts can be found on the website:  
<https://www.dpsk12.org/coronavirus/vaccine/>

### **Des Moines Public Schools**

The Des Moines public school district in Iowa operated two clinics for high school students and operated two clinics for students 12 and older. The district is exploring opportunities to partner with other organizations over the summer to get more students vaccinated.

### **Detroit Public Schools Community District**

In concert with community health partners at the Detroit Health Department, Henry Ford Health System, Ascension Health, and the NAACP Youth Council, Detroit school district student leaders launched the DPSCD [Teens for Vaccines](#) campaign. The initiative provides vaccine education and accessibility opportunities to COVID-19 vaccines for district teachers, staff, families, and eligible students 12+. Led by DPSCD student ambassadors, Harrison Haywood, a senior at Cass Technical High School, Rachel Kabala, a junior at Ben Carson, and Demetri Marino, a senior at Renaissance High School, the students are sharing their successful vaccination stories, including how being vaccinated has allowed them to re-engage in social and extra-curricular activities.

“We as students welcome the opportunity to lead on what is one of the most impactful circumstances of our young lives,” said Haywood, a senior at Cass Technical High School, referring to the effects of the pandemic. “We look forward to sharing our own vaccination stories through Teens for Vaccines to help educate our friends and fellow students.”

The first DPSCD T(w)eens for Vaccine event was held on May 22 and first dose Pfizer vaccinations were available for anyone eligible. Other Teens for Vaccines campaign forums in May included an information session for students from DPSCD’s Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program and an athletes’ session. Other sessions being developed include a “Dad’s and Grads” forum as well as a gathering focused on 12-15-year-old students in the month of June.

The school district will host additional vaccine opportunities at various high school clinics, and at the Northwest Activities Center in partnership with the Detroit Health Department. Teens for Vaccines will run through the end of June and is open for all to participate.

### **District of Columbia Public Schools**

Starting June 1, any District of Columbia resident who is 12 years or older can visit select D.C. Public Schools and receive their COVID-19 vaccine. Walk-in vaccination clinics will open at Anacostia High School, Eastern High School, Luke C. Moore High School, and Ida B. Wells Middle School. Schools will be open Monday-Saturday and hours vary by location in June through early-July.

### **East Baton Rouge Parish School System**

Beginning in the summer of 2020, the district partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor’s Office, and Our Lady of the Lake (LOL) Hospital

to provide COVID-19 testing sites at schools throughout the school district. In May 2021, the district worked with the East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President's Office, LDH and OLOL Hospital to provide individuals 12 and older (with parental consent) with the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at 10 high schools. This summer the district will continue its efforts to target this age group by partnering with the Mayor's Office and LDH on the ["Geaux get Vaccinated Campaign"](#).

Additionally, beginning on June 8, 2021, one of the school district's OLOL school-based health clinics will offer vaccines to students aged 12 and above. This effort will continue throughout the summer to provide staff, students, families, and community members additional opportunities to be vaccinated.

### **El Paso Independent School District**

The El Paso school district partnered with a local provider to offer COVID-19 vaccination clinics at all high schools. The clinics are open to students ages 12 and older. More than 200 students received the COVID-19 vaccine on Day 1 of "Vaccinate Before You Graduate" clinics in partnership with Immunize El Paso. The high school campus saw an overwhelming response to the campaign with students from feeder campuses joining their high school counterparts to get their first of two COVID-19 vaccines. The other nine clinics will continue at each traditional high school through May 28. Registration is required.

### **Fort Worth Independent School District**

The Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) in Texas has traditionally not operated vaccination clinics for students on any of its campuses, and vaccinations for students required by the Texas State Department of Health have always been the responsibility of families.

Nonetheless, COVID-19 has changed many traditional ways of doing things – including how FWISD handles vaccine clinics. While state-required vaccines are still the responsibility of families, the school district has opened some school facilities to provide COVID-19 vaccines. This change is very recent and a result of the CDC's decision to approve the Pfizer vaccine for children 12-15 years of age.

During the past two weeks, the school district has staged vaccine clinics at 14 high schools. Those clinics provided only the two-dose Pfizer vaccine and were open to students at those specific schools, their immediate eligible family members, staff, teachers, and employees at those schools. In reality, anyone who presented themselves and met the CDC criteria was given a vaccine. All vaccines at this event were provided and administered by a local pharmacy, whose owner was a graduate of the Fort Worth ISD.

An additional one-day vaccine event for FWISD personnel and students 12 years of age or older was staged in conjunction with the City of Fort Worth on May 28, 2021. On that same day, district officials worked with Tarrant County Public Health to provide vaccines to children and families at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual *Creando Una Amistad*, a Spanish-language only event focused on the district's Spanish-speaking and Latinx families.

Additional partnerships have been established over the past weeks with Texas Health Resources and additional pharmacies to provide eligible FWISD students, teachers, staff, and their families with vaccinations. In the school district's weekly newsletter, vaccination distribution opportunities are announced through the [www.fwisd.org](http://www.fwisd.org) website.

### **Guilford County Schools (Greensboro, NC)**

The Guilford County Schools (GCS) in North Carolina is partnering with local public health officials, North Carolina A&T State University, and Cone Health to vaccinate as many students ages 12 and up as possible. The school district is using school buses to transport students (with parent permission) from high schools to the Greensboro Mass Vaccination site for their first and second vaccine doses. The district is also hosting weekday and weekend mobile clinics at several local schools, particularly in underserved neighborhoods and communities where vaccination rates have been lower. Athletic directors and coaches are encouraging team visits to vaccination sites.

When GCS began its student vaccination efforts on May 4, COVID-19 vaccinations weren't yet approved for 12–15-year-old children. Since approval, GCS has expanded its efforts to include these students as well. The district estimates that nearly 500 GCS students have been vaccinated thus far, although vaccination partners likely haven't identified all GCS students in their totals, especially during weekend or drive-through clinics.

The school system anticipates continuing using schools as mobile/pop-up community clinic sites throughout the summer, and it is incorporating COVID-19 vaccinations into their back-to-school vaccination communications and planning as well.

The district hosted a focus group (ZOOM) for public health officials earlier this spring with several principals and a communications team to discuss the best ways to reach students and their families and overcome vaccination hesitation/distrust.

The district is leveraging all GCS communications platforms and channels, including “robo-calls,” emails, texts, and personal invitations from principals and school personnel (they trust communications from people they know), fliers (print and digital), website notices, employee e-newsletters and communications, marquee notices and community signage, teen and parent friendly social-media postings (including Instagram and YouTube), parent digital newsletters, press releases and media coverage, GCSTV, and notices to district information ambassadors and partners, among others. They are sharing ads, videos and materials created by various partners as well.

### **Hawaii Department of Education**

The Hawaii Public Schools has partnered with all major medical providers across seven islands to host middle and high school vaccine hubs for students 12 and over on secondary school campuses. A student can bring his or her family, and the entire family can receive the vaccine. The district is also engaging alumni from high school health academies to assist at the vaccine hubs. This allows students to see recent graduates, i.e., the younger generation either supporting



or administering the vaccine (for those who are now nurses). The district’s goal is to complete the 2nd administration by the end of summer school (end of June).

### **Houston Independent School District**

The Houston Independent School District has partnered with the City of Houston Health Department, Texas Medical Center Partners, and elected officials to host in-school COVID-19 vaccination clinics for both students who are at least 12 years of age and their family members. All HISD nurses have been trained to administer the vaccination at district schools. At this time, clinics are being held at middle and high schools across the district.

### **Indianapolis Public Schools**

The district has hosted a series of vaccine clinics:

- One specifically for COVID-19 vaccines
- 4 for regular school vaccines
- Each week the district sends messaging to families, which includes information about the latest age eligibility for the COVID vaccine and where they can sign up.
- The district has a website page dedicated to COVID-19 vaccine information that is also meant to promote the vaccine.
- The district is planning additional COVID and regular school-related vaccine clinics for the summer.

### **Jefferson County Public Schools (Louisville, KY)**

One of the Jefferson County school district’s elementary schools in a predominantly Black neighborhood hosted a vaccination site for about two months in its gymnasium, and Central High School recently hosted a one-day pop-up vaccination site. The district is also negotiating with Louisville’s largest health care provider to possibly open vaccination sites at several schools this summer.

### **Long Beach Unified School District**

The Long Beach Unified School District in California has partnered with the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services to host vaccine clinics on selected school campuses as part of the City’s ongoing commitment to ensuring COVID-19 vaccinations are accessible to all. The [school vaccination clinics](#) take place at the three campuses and each of the locations have the capacity to provide approximately 100 walk-up appointments each hour, based on vaccine availability. Clinics provide the two-dose Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and the single-dose Janssen/Johnson and Johnson vaccine. In the event all walk-up appointments are taken on a particular day, people are provided with information on alternative mobile vaccination sites or offered a future appointment. Minors must have a parent or guardian present to be vaccinated.

“We have deeply appreciated our partnership with the City of Long Beach and its Health Department throughout the pandemic,” LBUSD Superintendent Jill A. Baker said. “Vaccines have allowed our schools to reopen for in-person learning, and we want to keep that momentum

going for our students and our community. We remain committed to partnering with the city to provide greater access to these vaccines.”

### **Los Angeles Unified School District**

The Los Angeles Unified School District launched a school-based vaccination program for children ages 12 and up on May 24. Built on the success of its COVID-19 testing program and existing school-based vaccination sites, the district is deploying mobile vaccination teams to all middle and high school campuses over the next two weeks. Vaccination schedules and locations are available on the Los Angeles Unified website.

“We are vaccinating students before this school year ends while teachers, staff, and their students are still in schools,” said Superintendent Austin Beutner. Because health authorities require a family member to accompany anyone under 16 when they are being vaccinated, Los Angeles Unified will provide paid time off to all staff to be able to help their children. Here is the [press release](#).

### **Metro Nashville Public Schools**

The Metro Nashville Public Schools in Tennessee has partnered with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt to offer vaccination appointments and information about the vaccine to all district families with children ages 12 and older. Schools are serving as locations for walk-up vaccination clinics provided by the Metro Public Health Department.

### **Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools partnered with Miami-Dade County to offer vaccinations at select schools in targeted areas for two weeks. Thursdays were by appointment only to all public and charters students, employees, and family members from noon-8 p.m. Saturdays were open to the public at six schools from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The district is also offering the second dose to those individuals starting in two weeks and is looking at offering vaccinations to students at some of its summer school locations.

### **Milwaukee Public Schools**

In collaboration with the Milwaukee Health Department, the Milwaukee Public Schools is hosting walk-in vaccine clinics at five schools. All youth will need a [consent form](#) signed by a parent/guardian. No appointments are needed. Here is the [Vaccine Clinic flyer - English](#)

### **Newark Public Schools**

Since the start of the pandemic, the Newark Public Schools in New Jersey has been hosting testing and now vaccination locations for residents in the community and all district, private, parochial, and charter school employees. While we remain steadfast in our collaborative efforts with local, county, and state health departments, this month we pivot to our Vaccines for Teens strategy.

On June 16, we will host our first vaccination site for teenagers (and we welcome all adults who want to be vaccinated to join in this effort.) This weekly Wednesday evening event will begin at our Lights On Program with expansion plans underway to two other locations before the start of the summer.

### **New York City Department of Education**

The district is partnering with the United Federation of Teachers to deploy mobile pop-up vaccine sites at schools for students ages 12 to 17, beginning June 4. The program starts with four schools in the Bronx and is expected to expand to all five boroughs in the next few weeks.

### **Norfolk Public Schools**

The Norfolk Public School district in Virginia has partnered with the Norfolk Department of Public Health to create "vaccine clinics" for our students who are 16 years and older to receive the Pfizer vaccine at their school's nurse's office. This is open to students who are learning virtually and in-person, who get a permission form signed by a parent/guardian to participate. Parents/guardians also have the option to take their 16+ student to the city-wide vaccination site as well. Students 18+ do not require parental permission for either option. More information is on our website here: <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/17762>

Now that the vaccine is available for students 12 and older, the district is working to do something similar with school clinics beginning June 7. Given that end of year testing is also taking place, the Student Wellness Office is working with principals to confirm dates and logistics. The Athletics Department is also working to offer the vaccines when student athletes come in to get their physicals for middle and high school.

### **Oklahoma City Public Schools**

The Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) partnered with its local health department (Oklahoma City County Health Department) in the early part of the pandemic, and they have been a major resource for the district during the past year.

When the vaccine became available in Oklahoma and in the county, the school district worked with OCCHD, OU Health Sciences and several other health care providers to offer the vaccine to staff members. Now that the vaccine is available for students, the district is using that same model to host vaccine PODs at schools across the district for students and their families.

The school district has also been sharing vaccination opportunities with its families. The OKCPS Health Services team is working right now with the local health department to offer the vaccine to students and their families over the summer at some schools.

### **Orange County Public Schools (Orlando)**

The Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) in Orlando, FL, began supporting the COVID-19 vaccination process in January 2021. Throughout the pandemic, the district has worked in close collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Orange County (FDOH-Orange). Adding the vaccination efforts was a natural extension of our partnership. OCPS, as one of the largest

employers in central Florida, hosted a joint vaccination event at the Orange County Convention Center with FDOH-Orange exclusively for our 65 and older employees and school-based licensed medical professionals. Executive leadership assisted during the event to ensure our staff members were guided through the process, which at that time was complicated. Staff members who don't often use computers or online software as part of their job duties were assisted one-on-one. More than 300 employees were vaccinated at this first event.

On March 4, Governor DeSantis made the announcement that vaccination sites were open to educators. The announcement was sent to all staff within hours. Administrative leadership worked with staff members to facilitate coverage of classrooms and duties to ensure all who wanted to get a vaccination could do so. Having a FEMA vaccination site in our vicinity assisted in this effort greatly. The FEMA site experienced very [large crowds of OCPS employees](#) in the first few days of educator eligibility, as age restrictions were still in place for the state-run vaccination sites. As eligibility changed, we kept our employees informed as updates became available.

When the Pfizer vaccine was authorized for children ages 16 and up in early April, the district communicated to all families of eligible students, sharing details on vaccination site availability by FDOH-Orange, Orange County Government, FEMA, and other vendors. At this point, an OCPS team comprised of Health Services, Safety and Emergency Management, and Communications Division personnel partnered with FDOH-Orange to expand vaccination efforts. Dr. Raul Pino, Director of FDOH-Orange, provided information on OCPS vaccination sites during the Orange County mayor's weekly press briefings. An 18-year-old senior in OCPS consented to getting the vaccine on camera during one press conference as a role model for his peers. The Orange County Government shared our social media posts to assist in promoting the events.

A previous vaccination partner for Tdap and other required shots, Health Hero Florida, at this point partnered with the Florida Department of Health across the state, including substantial efforts with OCPS, to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to school district students, families, and community members on our campuses during and after school hours. The process began with three sites in targeted high schools identified by FDOH-Orange, garnering a [total of 1,536 people](#), many of whom were teens. Turnout was better at these school sites than at comparable county sites around the same time. The return rate for the second dose was an impressive 80 percent of first dose recipients. We also worked with another partner, MedStop Pharmacy, to add two additional high school sites the following week. MedStop completed the first dose of the vaccine to approximately 470 people, and the group is currently working to complete the second dose.

Because the school district was promoting these vaccination events, it was fielding many questions about the vaccines from the community, especially parents. The school district launched a [COVID-19 Vaccination Information page](#) on our website at ocps.net.



The district also deployed the School Board’s Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), set up at the start of the 2020-2021 school year, to help answer questions. Starting April 15, the district solicited questions from parents, students, staff, and the community via a Google Form, generating 735 submissions as of May 10. On May 13, the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) participated in a videotaped [Q&A Session titled “Ask MAC”](#) and answered the most frequently asked and pressing questions from those submissions. The hour-long session was live-streamed on the school district’s YouTube Channel, linked with social media, and transcribed and posted online afterwards.

The same week we held the live “Ask MAC” event, the age eligibility for the Pfizer vaccine was lowered to 12 years old. OCPS used the existing school-site model to offer vaccinations at middle school locations. This occurred at the end of the school year, but we were able to host three vaccination events at middle schools, vaccinating approximately 521 people with their first doses, before the last day of school.

The district plans a summer vaccination schedule at 21 middle and high schools spanning the county, strategically chosen with guidance from FDOH-Orange to enhance their geographic coverage and target the age demographic of 12–18-year-olds. FDOH-Orange and OCPS School Health Services, Safety and Emergency Management, and Communications team members have been instrumental in organizing the additional vaccination events with Health Hero Florida. The schedule ensures that both doses will be offered to students and their family members prior to the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. We continue to promote these events on social media, with news media outlets and via our partnership with Orange County Government and the Orange County Mayor’s Office. The combined efforts of OCPS and our partners at Health Hero Florida and MedStop have provided 3,730 first and/or second doses to our students, employees, families, and community members as of May 2021.

### **Palm Beach County Public Schools**

The School District of Palm Beach County has a long-standing partnership with the Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County to provide basic school health services and additional specialized during suspected or confirmed disease outbreaks that can impact schools. Since the onset of the COVID-19 virus, the three entities, formally known as the School Health Partners, have continued to work together collaboratively to formulate goals, guiding principles, and strategies to mitigate local COVID-19

transmission in PBC schools. These collaborative efforts have prevented class and school closures since schools reopened on September 10, 2020.

Immediately after the availability of vaccines for adults, The School District of Palm Beach County, in collaboration with public health entities and school community stakeholders, provided continuous communications to teachers and staff on how and where to obtain the vaccine. As a result, over half of Palm Beach County's largest employer has been vaccinated to date.

Now that student vaccines are available for the 12-15age group, the School Health Partners are working together to provide mobile COVID vaccination units on district school sites bringing the opportunity for students and their families to get vaccinated. This student vaccination initiative will run through the summer months, up until the first day of school in August.

### **Pittsburgh Public Schools**

The Pittsburgh Public Schools partnered with University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and local grocery chain/pharmacy Giant Eagle. They are hosting clinics at each of our K-8, 6-8, 6-12 and high school buildings starting on June 1. Giant Eagle pharmacists and UPMC professionals will be deployed to schools to provide students with the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The district held a student clinic a few weeks ago with Giant Eagle at Heinz field, but participation was low—so the district is taking a school-based approach. One challenge district officials see is that local pharmacies and even big health care systems like UPMC do not always have the permission forms or information about Pfizer in the languages the district needs. The school district is reaching out to local partners to help engage its ESL families, but it is facing some barriers in getting students from various EL communities vaccinated.

### **Portland Public Schools**

The Portland Public Schools in Oregon has a supercenter for vaccinations at the Oregon Convention Center. The school district is sending reminders and information throughout the week, signing up students and their family members for appointments, providing transportation to those who need it, and staffing the convention center so they can welcome and orient students as they arrive.

In addition, the school district is letting families know about other opportunities for vaccines at places like Fire Bureau locations and pharmacies. The district has used social media to help reinforce the safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines. All information is provided by the district in six supported languages. [Here is one of their info pages](#)

In the next few weeks, the school district is hosting at least 5 school-based events in partnership with nonprofit, county, and state agencies. In addition, our team developed this [vaccine clinic map](#) for students and families, which we are beginning to share more broadly. Of course, the school district wants to do more and is hopeful that joining the national effort will get more of our students and families vaccinated.

### **Rochester City School District**

The Rochester City School District in New York state has partnered with Walgreens and will be offering vaccine clinics at all school buildings. The district has developed a plan that includes calling all families, sending letters from the principal, social media, and it will be recording a message from the Superintendent to encourage families to sign their child up this week.

### **Sacramento City Unified School District**

Sacramento City Unified School District in California has partnered with local healthcare providers, including Dignity Health and University of California Davis to host vaccination events on district sites and high schools. Through these clinics, the school district has offered vaccine to all SCUSD staff and is now focusing its efforts on community members and students, including children 12 and over. The district has promoted the vaccine and its safety and clinics to the community through a "Get Vaccinated" marketing campaign. The campaign has been shifted to focus on a younger audience of teens and tweens. The district is promoting the campaign through direct mailings to families and students, emails, social media, partnerships with community entities and its youth media team, and placed ads on billboards and buses. More information can be found at [www.scusd.edu/vaccinations](http://www.scusd.edu/vaccinations).

### **Saint Louis Public Schools**

The St. Louis City Public Schools in Missouri held its first student vaccination event for ages 16 and up on May 6 in partnership with the Urban League and the Missouri National Guard. Students who participated (about 100) will receive their second Pfizer doses on May 27. Here is the [letter](#) the district sent home with students. The letter was also shared via parent newsletter, website, and robocall.

The [second vaccination event](#) for students ages 12 and up will be on June 5, and the second dose will be offered on June 26. The St. Louis Cardinals baseball team is providing vouchers for a future game to students who get vaccinated as an incentive.

### **San Antonio Independent School District**

The San Antonio Independent School District in Texas is actively coordinating vaccination clinics for all eligible students and their family members, and it is working with local health providers and pharmacies to schedule vaccination clinics at sites in the community as well as on school campuses. The goal is to vaccinate as many eligible students before the end of the school year as possible (June 17), but efforts will also continue throughout the summer and into the fall. The school district is about to launch an incentive program, giving schools an opportunity to compete for the highest participation rate of vaccinations among eligible students – with the winning school earning additional resources for student activities and enrichment.

### **San Diego Unified School District**

The San Diego Unified School District has been working with two community health partners, University of California San Diego and a local health care provider SHARP to bring COVID

vaccines to its schools. Partners are targeting high schools in high need areas, and they bring in a clinic on a space rental-use agreement and provide all staff and supplies. The school district started with its clinics on May 10, 2021, so second dose vaccines are scheduled before school is out on June 15, 2021.

### **Santa Ana Unified School District**

The Santa Ana Unified School District in California started vaccinating students 12+ (minors must be accompanied by an adult) on May 17 at its vaccination clinic at Segerstrom High School. The school district continues to offer each Monday a Pfizer vaccination clinic at the high school through a partnership with [Rite-Aid](#).

The school district has now provided close to 38,000 vaccines for employees and SAUSD community members through all local partnerships, and it is working to secure more vaccination opportunities to ensure all community members have equitable access.

### **School District of Philadelphia**

The Philadelphia school district and the Philadelphia Department of Health, in collaboration with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Black Doctors COVID Consortium, launched the Philly Teen Vaxx Program, where student ambassadors encouraged all eligible students to get vaccinated at one of four teen-centered vaccination sites across the city. First doses of the Pfizer vaccine were offered on May 14-20. Follow up dates will be offered for second doses. Here's a WHYY segment on the program:

[Should-teens-get-vaccinated-these-philly-high-schoolers-say-yes-please/](#). The school district has also worked closely with PDPH to share information with families about COVID vaccinations for students.

### **Seattle Public Schools**

The Seattle Public Schools in Washington state has partnered with the city, Seattle Fire Department, and local public health to host 39 student vaccine clinics at schools for students 12 and older, so students can be fully vaccinated and protected from the COVID-19 virus before in-person graduation and in advance of a full-time, in-person return to school this fall.

### **Shelby County Schools (Memphis, TN)**

The Shelby County Public Schools in Memphis, Tennessee is partnering with both the Shelby County Health Department and the City of Memphis to share vaccination resources with students and families (see [English](#) and [Spanish](#) attached flyers that are being shared on school district platforms).

The city has also requested an opportunity to bring mobile vaccination units to the parking lots of designated SCS schools. District officials are currently in preliminary discussions about this opportunity and will be updating the school board with more information regarding parental



consent and an intergovernmental agreement. The school district is currently [surveying](#) our families to gather data about how many potential parents are interested in having their child vaccinated if offered at schools.

### **Tulsa Public Schools**

The district is hosting six clinics between June 1 and June 10 for students ages 12+ and their families.

### **Washoe County School District (Reno, NV)**

In partnership with regional fire departments, the Washoe County School District (WCSD) in Reno, Nevada, joined with community volunteers to dispense COVID-19 vaccines to district employees during January and February. As the largest employer in northern Nevada with some 8,000 employees, WCSD has organized these Point of Distribution (POD) events to help alleviate the burden on local health agencies, which are providing vaccines to community members. WCSD also collaborated with the regional health district to establish POD events in high-risk neighborhoods to help serve families.

Additionally, the Washoe County Health Department is establishing POD events at several WCSD school campuses during the summer months for children 12 years or older. The sites have been selected based on WCSD's comprehensive summer school programs.

WCSD has been an integral part of regional communication efforts to share vaccination information to the community as well as important mitigation information during the pandemic.