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California clarifies teacher priority in vaccination rollout

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Feb. 19 that at least 10 percent of California's vaccines — about 75,000 doses a week — would be set aside for educators beginning March 1. Those dedicated doses will be prioritized for school employees already working with students or who will return to classrooms soon, including teachers, food service workers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, child care providers and others, as well as those serving at-risk communities, Newsom's office clarified [in guidance released Feb. 25](#).

CSBA appreciates the clarification that employees who are critical to in-person instruction but who may not be on a school site are also prioritized for vaccinations, as well as staff who work in schools that are planning to reopen.

To implement the program, California will provide single-use codes that will allow teachers and other education workers to make appointments online using the state's vaccination website, [MyTurn](#). A proportional share of codes will be distributed via county offices of education to districts based on total K-12 staff size and equity, as measured based on the student population (e.g., low-income students, English learners, foster youth), in order to prioritize safe reopenings for students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

To qualify for the expedited appointments, teachers and school staff must be currently working in-person on site or be scheduled to return to work within 21 days. Those working or living in communities where children are disproportionately affected by the pandemic will also be among the first in line.

In addition to issuing the appointment codes, the state will host "education worker days" at vaccine sites like the Oakland Coliseum and California State University, Los Angeles. As of Thursday, 35 of the state's 58 counties are offering vaccines to teachers, and the state is encouraging counties to continue leading vaccination efforts.



California School Boards Association | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691

Phone: (800) 266-3382 | Fax: (916) 371-3407

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