



DEEPER DIVE: Group 3 – Frontline Essential Workers (School and Childcare)

A tested, safe and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. To save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19, independent state and federal public health advisory committees recommend first protecting health care workers caring for patients with COVID-19, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19. Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as possible given the limited supply of vaccines. Keep practicing the 3 Ws – wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands – until everyone has a chance to get vaccinated.

Group 3: Frontline Essential Workers: School and Childcare

NC will move to Group 3 Frontline Essential Workers on February 24. Because supply is still very limited and the population of frontline essential workers is so large, we will begin with anyone working in child care or in PreK – 12 schools starting on February 24th. North Carolina plans to move to additional frontline essential workers on March 10th. Some vaccine providers may not be ready to open to frontline essential workers on these dates if they are still experiencing high demand for vaccines in Groups 1 and 2.

Am I Eligible? To be considered a frontline essential worker in child care or schools, you must be in-person at your place of work, including staff who anticipate an imminent return to an in-person work setting. Staff who are 65 and older are already eligible to receive vaccine.

Where do you work?

Child Care Settings	K-12 School Settings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Centers • Pre-Kindergarten Programs • Head Start & Early Head Start Programs • Pre-School Programs • Family Child Care Homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Public Schools • Charter Schools • Private/Non-Public Schools

What is your role?

Child Care Roles	K-12 School Roles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Teacher assistants • Student teachers • Owners, directors, supervisors • Bus and van drivers • Family support staff • Food service workers • Classroom support and administrative staff • Custodial and maintenance staff • Therapists and medical staff • Required on-site consultants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Teacher assistants • Student teachers • Special education teachers and therapists • School and district administrators • School transportation drivers • Food service workers • School support staff (e.g., guidance counselors, social workers, speech language pathologists) • Custodial and maintenance staff • Media & IT specialists • School safety personnel • Librarians • School administrative staff • Instructional support staff • School Nurses (eligible in Group 1)