

#ChildCareStrong Navigators Partnership Overview

A collaboration among Governor Northam's Office, the Virginia Department of Health, Local Health Districts, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, Smart Beginnings, and #ChildCareStrong Navigators.

Local health departments are [currently in vaccination Phase 1B](#). Within Phase 1B, local health departments are engaging with front line essential workers in a set priority order, outlined on the [VDH website](#) (click 1B for details). Childcare/PreK-12 Teachers/Staff (public and private) are all in the third tier within front line essential workers. Phase 1B will likely take at least until April 2021 for all eligible individuals who want to be fully vaccinated. Supply is steadily increasing, but remains the biggest constraint in vaccination efforts.

With so many early childhood providers in Virginia, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and Smart Beginnings stepped up to support local health districts in providing vaccinations to this critically important workforce.

Governor Ralph Northam's Office, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and Smart Beginnings began partnering in February to connect #ChildCareStrong Navigators with local health districts to ensure child care providers have access to the vaccine. With this coordinated effort, we can facilitate health districts' efforts to reach our diverse population of child care providers and provide more awareness about upcoming vaccine events and their eligibility.

The Role of the #ChildCareStrong Navigators

There is one designated early childhood point of contact per local health district. This point of contact, (the "Navigator"), is available to assist health district representatives in many ways which may include facilitating pre-registration of child care providers in the locality where they work, assisting with contacting providers to fill remaining slots on short notice, coordinating vaccination events for child care providers, and helping spread facts to minimize vaccine hesitancy.

It is important to note that Navigators will not replace existing channels within health districts for general communication and fielding questions about vaccinations; however, they will support health districts in making sure all providers are included.

Questions?

Frequently asked questions about this initiative are included below as well as instructions for how to get registered for the vaccine. If you are a child care provider who is continuing to have challenges with registration or vaccination within your community, you are welcome to join #ChildCareStrong Navigator Partnership office hours calls being held on Friday morning at 10AM. This is designated time set aside to hear directly from child care providers and as necessary, share their questions and concerns with state leaders. Even if you are unavailable to attend office hours, you can still submit your questions through the office hours RSVP. [Click here](#) to RSVP for office hours.

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Project-specific FAQ's

For general or medical questions about the vaccine, [click here](#) to review the full set of Virginia Department of Health's COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs (available in multiple languages).

Is pre-registration required to obtain the vaccine? How do child care providers get pre-registered?

Yes, pre-registration is required. Child care providers can pre-register at www.vaccinate.virginia.gov or call 877-VAX-IN-VA to pre-register for the vaccine and get clear, updated information.

Which child care providers are eligible for the vaccine?

Within Phase 1B, local health departments are engaging with frontline essential workers in a set priority order, outlined on the [VDH website](#) (click 1B for details). All Childcare/PreK-12 Teachers/Staff (**public and private, licensed, unlicensed, local/voluntarily registered, religious exempt, home-based etc.**) are all in the third tier within frontline essential workers.

Should child care providers pre-register for the vaccine where they live or where they work?

Each child care provider who works in Virginia should pre-register in Virginia even if they live out of state.

Who should child care providers contact to learn about upcoming vaccination events?

Providers can contact 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682) or vaccinate.virginia.gov for general information about vaccinations and their local health department for information specific to their community. #ChildCareStrong Navigators work in collaboration with their health districts to provide information on events planned for child care providers. Navigators are not intended to field calls and questions from individual providers and child care personnel about vaccinations, but rather serve as partners with the health district to help disseminate factual, unbiased information about the vaccine, its benefits, and vaccination events.

Is it possible for individuals to receive calls with spots available within hours of availability?

Yes! While this is not the typical way appointments are scheduled, vaccination ability is directly linked to the shipment and availability of supply, which can change daily. Clinics also call on short notice to fill slots created by no-shows. Communications with providers should include sharing this reality in order to level-set expectations and ready them for quick response as feasible.

What if a child care provider still has questions?

Join #ChildCareStrong Navigator Partnership office hours calls being held on Friday morning at 10AM. This is designated time set aside to continue hearing from child care providers to subsequently elevate your questions to state leaders. Even if you are unavailable to physically attend office hours, you can still submit your questions through the office hours RSVP. [Click here](#) to RSVP for office hours.