



## RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL VACCINATION EVENTS

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### **Who is eligible to get vaccinated at Rhode Island school vaccination events?**

We encourage all students ages 12 or older to sign up to get vaccinated at these events. Community members, including staff and family members (age 12 or older), are encouraged to sign up if they have not yet been vaccinated.

Check with your school/municipality to learn how students and other members of school communities can sign up to get vaccinated.

#### **Why should I get my adolescent child or teenager vaccinated?**

Vaccination is key to protecting adolescents (and people of all ages) both in and out of school.

Adolescents account for a growing proportion of COVID-19 cases in Rhode Island and nationally, particularly with this new Delta variant circulating. COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States offer protection against most COVID-19 variants, including the [Delta variant](#).

A small percentage of adolescents infected with COVID-19 can develop a [serious inflammatory condition, MIS-C](#), in the two to six weeks after COVID-19 infection.

#### **Which vaccine is available to students 12 or older?**

The Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine is available to young people 12 or older. Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) and the Moderna vaccines are only authorized for those 18 or older at this time. The Pfizer vaccine offers a high level of protection against COVID-19. [Data suggest](#) that COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States offer protection against most COVID-19 variants, including the Delta variant.

For more information about how people get sick with the virus that causes COVID-19, see [How COVID-19 Spreads](#).

#### **How will students and school communities register for vaccination events?**

Each municipality is working with school leaders to organize events in the best way to serve the local community. When they have the plans ready, they will let you know.

#### **Do high school students need to have parents/guardians sign any forms before getting vaccinated?**

No consent paperwork is required in advance. Adolescents age 12 to 15 need to have a parent or guardian present at the vaccination appointment. Those age 16 or older can consent to vaccination and attend their vaccination appointment by themselves.



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This guidance comes from the state statute RIGL 23-4.6-1 “(a) Any person of the age of sixteen (16) or over or married may consent to routine, emergency, medical or surgical care. A minor parent may consent to treatment of his or her child.”

### **Will students and school communities need to show identification or have insurance?**

No. You do not need identification to get vaccinated. The vaccination is no cost. No insurance is necessary to get vaccinated.

### **How will students and school communities get their second dose of the vaccine?**

Students and others who get vaccinated at these events will be asked to schedule their second dose during the 15-minute observation period after their first dose is administered. People will be able to get both first and second doses at these clinics. The vaccination event organizers will be able to tell you exactly when and where the second dose event will be.

### **How can students and school communities get vaccinated if they miss the school events?**

Students can ask school administrators if there are more clinics being held throughout the district.

We urge students, families, and staff not to wait if they miss a school event. Many appointments are available now at locations across the state. Sign up for a vaccination appointment at [C19vaccineRI.org](https://www.c19vaccineRI.org).

### **What do I need to bring to my vaccination appointment?**

Please wear a mask and loose-fitting clothing that allows easy access to your upper arm. Follow social distancing guidelines at your appointment.

### **Will there be an opportunity to enter health insurance information?**

If you have a health insurance card, please bring it. If you do not have a health insurance card, you can still get vaccinated. Adding health insurance information to your vaccine record is optional.

### **How can I check my vaccination record?**

When you get vaccinated, you’ll get a vaccination card that tells you which COVID-19 vaccine you got and the date and location of your vaccination. Keep this card; this card is the best record of your vaccination.

Student COVID-19 vaccine documentation will automatically be uploaded to the Rhode Island Department of Health children’s health information system, [KIDSNET](https://www.kidsnet.ri.gov).

Rhode Islanders can now get a copy of their COVID-19 vaccine record through [portal.ri.gov/VaccineRecord](https://portal.ri.gov/VaccineRecord). From this website, you can search for and print proof of your COVID-19 vaccination. If you need a second dose of vaccine, this record will tell you when you are eligible to get



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your second dose. Please note that only people who have gotten their COVID-19 vaccination in Rhode Island will be able to look up their vaccination record online.

### [Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

#### **Is the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine safe?**

Safety is a top priority. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was tested in large clinical trials with people of different ages, races, ethnicities, and people with different health conditions to make sure it is safe.

No steps involving safety have been skipped—COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same standards as other vaccines to make sure they are safe. To ensure the safety of all vaccines in the United States, there is a rigorous vaccine development and approval process. Once a vaccine is available for use, there are additional systems in place to continue to ensure safety.

#### **Does the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine offer protection against the new Delta variant?**

[Data suggest](#) that COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States offer protection against most COVID-19 variants, including the Delta variant. For the best protection, you need to be fully vaccinated—meaning two weeks have passed since you've gotten the second dose of a two-dose series such as the Pfizer vaccine.

#### **Will the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine make me sick?**

No. Vaccines do not cause the COVID-19 disease. However, vaccines can cause your immune system to respond. This is a sign that the vaccine—and your body's immune system—is working.

We expect people to have symptoms after vaccination with any of the currently available vaccines. People may feel some soreness in their upper arms, aches, fever, and fatigue. These symptoms may be more noticeable than those that occur with a flu vaccine. This is completely normal and will clear up in a few days. Some people may experience no symptoms.

Find more information about the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at [fda.gov/media/144414/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download).