

**SECRETARIAL DIRECTIVE  
FOR PRIORITIZATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES  
AND ADMINISTRATION FOR CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL  
AND CHILD CARE WORKERS**

March 2, 2021

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that “[v]accines are an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic,”<sup>1</sup> and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has considered evidence related to SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology, vaccination program implementation, and ethical principles in developing the interim recommendation for allocation of COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>2</sup> As part of its review, ACIP recommended priority vaccine allocation for essential workers, including those who work in the education sector (teachers and school staff) and those who provide child care services.<sup>3</sup>

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has determined that teachers, school staff, and child care workers hold jobs that are critical to the continued functioning of society and are at potential occupational risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2.<sup>4</sup> However, it has come to our attention that some states have not considered teachers, school staff, and child care workers to be currently eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

In order to address this important public health issue, the HHS Secretary hereby DIRECTS all COVID-19 vaccination providers that are administering COVID-19 vaccine purchased by the United States as follows:

**All COVID-19 vaccination providers are directed and required to make available and administer, as one of the currently eligible groups, COVID-19 vaccine to those who work in pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools, as well as Head Start and Early Head Start programs (including teachers, staff, and bus drivers) and those who work as or for licensed child care providers, including center-based and family care providers.**

This directive must be implemented by designated enrolled providers in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program as specified in updated CDC Prioritization requirements posted at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html>.

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<sup>1</sup> See CDC, *Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#vaccination>.)

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

This Directive also applies to all awardees and recipients of HHS grant and cooperative agreement funds, including grants to States and territories that have been awarded to support, implement and expand COVID-19 vaccination programs nationwide. This Directive replaces or supersedes any contrary direction from HHS and CDC, including the *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations (Playbook)* guidance document, as well as supplements and addenda to the Playbook. In addition, this directive supersedes any prior workplan, application, jurisdiction vaccination plan, or any other submission from the recipient that was submitted to the CDC and is in conflict with this directive.

I thank you for your attention to this matter, as well as for your efforts in the COVID-19 response.

/s/

Norris Cochran  
Acting Secretary