

Educators, School Personnel and Child Care Workers Eligible for Covid Vaccine



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Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



Educators, School Personnel and Child Care Workers Will Be Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine Beginning February 24

PEACE. North Carolina has administered over 1.5 million vaccine doses. We are currently vaccinating seniors in Group 2. More than 40 percent of North Carolina's residents 65 and older have been vaccinated.

This week Governor Roy Cooper announced that anyone working in child care, pre-K, or K-12 schools will be eligible for the vaccine on February 24. Additional front line workers such as law enforcement, restaurant workers, and manufacturing workers will be eligible on March 10. You can read the [full list of front line workers here](#).

Bill Passes to Force All Local Schools to Return to In-Person Instruction

Students and educators need in-person instruction that is safe and meets public health recommendations. Last week a bipartisan group of state education leaders, including Governor Cooper, Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt, and State Board of Education Chair Eric Davis publicly encouraged all school districts to be in in-person instruction that meets public health recommendations. Around 10% of school districts remain in remote-only instruction, but many of those have announced a return to in-person. This week the House rushed to pass [SB 37](#), a bill requiring all schools

to return to in-person instruction under Plan A “Minimum Social Distancing” or Plan B “Moderate Social Distancing.” Schools would have to serve all students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) who wanted to return under Plan A “Minimum Social Distancing.”

Balancing public health with the value of in-person education is a priority. Students need in-person instruction that is safe and complies with public health recommendations for many reasons beyond academic instruction. I also know that many parents are anxious to get their kids back in the classroom.

It is equally important that educators are treated as the essential workers that they are. That means doing everything we can to prioritize front-line teachers and school employees in getting the vaccine and I am glad the Governor’s public health team has taken this step.

I voted No on the bill because local schools need flexibility to make local decisions. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work. The bill requires local schools to meet certain in-person learning mandates without providing resources to meet those mandates. Additionally, the virus remains unpredictable and local schools must have the flexibility to adapt if variants cause the disease to surge.

I also felt like this bill was a rushed, one-size-fits-all bill written by legislative leaders behind closed doors that takes power away from local schools and Governor Cooper. Republicans refused to hear amendments by Democrats in committee and defeated all efforts to improve the bill on the floor. Now is the time for bipartisan problem-solving, not insider power grabs.

We must look beyond SB 37 as well. Additional investments in education need to be part of the solution. The state needs to send local schools the money needed to meet COVID-19 health and safety protocols. After years of cutbacks, we also need more nurses and mental health counselors.

The pandemic has made worse long-standing problems in our public schools. North Carolina has over \$5 billion waiting to be invested. For too long North Carolina has prioritized tax cuts for the richest corporations and individuals. Instead, we need to put first investing in a sound, basic education for every North Carolina child. That is money badly needed to provide every North Carolina child a sound, basic education.

North Carolina Vaccine Information

Find your spot to take your shot - <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/findyourspot>.

Tested, safe and effective. More than 70,000 people volunteered in clinical trials for two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) to see if they are safe and work to prevent COVID-19 illness. Volunteers included people of all races and backgrounds. To date, the vaccines are 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 with no serious safety concerns. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. You may have temporary reactions like a sore arm, headache or feeling tired and achy for a day or two after receiving the vaccine.

Keep practicing the 3 Ws (wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands) until most people have a chance to get vaccinated.

[CDC Says Double-Masking Offers More Protection Against The Coronavirus](#)

NC Department of Justice Announces 2020's Top 10 Consumer Complaints

Attorney General Josh Stein shared the top 10 consumer complaints that the North Carolina Department of Justice received in 2020. Not surprisingly, robocalls lead the list. You can report robocallers online at www.ncdoj.gov/norobo or through NCDOJ's robo-report.



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