Call to Action

Keep Our Kids in School: Get Vaccine to Schools

Our schools are struggling to stay open during the pandemic.The first and necessary step toward keeping kids in schools is to get our teachers and school staff vaccinated.

Every day, a case of COVID-19 threatens to close a school. Whole classes are being quarantined for 14 days as a result of a single person testing positive. Whole schools are being required to close if as few as two people test positive for COVID-19.

Schools are struggling to stay staffed and find substitutes due to the numbers of teachers and support staff who are absent due to COVID-19.

Many Chester County schools have been designated as mass distribution centers and are able to quickly distribute the vaccines to school staff once they receive them. School staff and the Chester County Health Department have been trained together to distribute medicine and vaccines on a large scale. We are ready and waiting.

We cannot delay getting vaccines to our school staff a moment longer. We need our legislators to know that education is essential and getting the vaccine to all school staff - from bus drivers to teachers to instructional aides to cafeteria and custodial workers - is needed today.

Here’s how you can help:

1. Draft a letter to state and federal officials
	1. Download sample letter
	2. Personalize it with your story
		1. Describe how school closings and remote and hybrid learning are impacting your child(ren) and family
			1. Your ability to work
			2. Financial impact on your family
			3. Mental health stresses on your family
			4. Educational impact on your child(ren)
2. Find your legislators/state officials:
	1. [Legislator Lookup](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/) (<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>)

* 1. Pennsylvania Department of Health officials:

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1. Email your state legislators/officials with your family’s story and ask them to prioritize the vaccine for school staff.
2. Follow-up your email with a phone call. Be prepared to share your story and your experience. Explain why you think it is important that school staff receive vaccines now. Phone calls really get legislators attention.
3. Follow your legislators on Social Media and post to their accounts.
	1. Download sample social media posts
	2. Use the hashtag #EducationIsEssential