



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



February 2, 2021

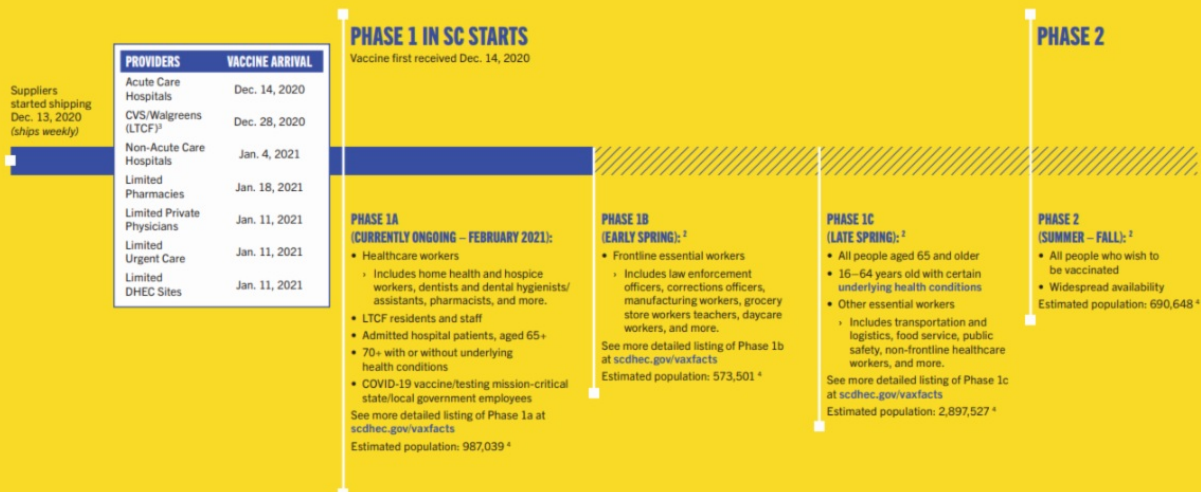
Missed last week's memos?

All SCDE weekly memo communications are archived [here](#). Individual memos can be found on the [School District Memoranda Archive](#).

COVID-19 VACCINE

COVID-19 VACCINE FLOW IN SC

This graphic shows the progression of the vaccine from the federal government to the state and the steps along the way from providers to vaccine recipients.¹



THE COVID-19 VACCINE

FOOTNOTES:

1. All phase groups are subject to change based on CDC/ACIP/VAC recommendations
2. All estimates subject to change due to vaccine availability, demand, and provider participation.
3. Vaccine allocated to Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF)
4. Sources: SC Department of Commerce and DOD Tiberius Planning Tool

[DHEC COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Healthcare workers, anyone 70 years and older, and state & local government employees and contractors who perform COVID-19 vaccinations and testing in S.C. can make appointments to get a vaccine.

[See the complete listing for who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a.](#)

Find vaccine provider locations by:

1. Using scdhec.gov/vaxlocator to see locations accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccine. Pick a location and call the phone number listed to make an appointment. The map itself is not a way to schedule an appointment.
2. Calling DHEC's Care Line at 1-855-472-3432 for help finding contact information you need to make an appointment. The Care Line can't schedule an appointment but can give you phone numbers for locations you can call to make an appointment.

Please find additional information here. Current vaccine information is available at scdhec.gov/vaxfacts.

Who in K-12 schools qualifies for the vaccine in Phase 1a? This includes school nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech language pathologists and audiologists, and athletic trainers (only those assisting with school based COVID-19 testing) who are working face to face with students. It is important to note that just because someone has an eligible title does not mean they are in Phase 1a. Employers are encouraged to submit names of qualifying employees to area hospitals. [DHEC suggests employers provide eligible employees with a letter stating their eligibility.](#)

Must you be vaccinated in the county you work in? No, those identified as eligible in Phase 1a can follow the above instructions to find a hospital in a neighboring county that is offering appointments. Hospitals are allowed to offer vaccination to anyone in the appropriate phase regardless of their county of residency.

Have a general question about COVID-19? Call the DHEC Care Line at 1-855-472-3432 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

DHEC began reporting positive COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools on September 4, 2020. Since that time, there have been **9,359** [positive cases among K-12 students and staff](#) who attended school face to face during their infectious period. During that same time period (9/4/2020 to 1/30/2021) DHEC has reported **317,801** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **2.9%** of South Carolina's total since K-12 positive case reporting began. Public and private K-12 students and staff make up approximately one fifth of South Carolina's total population.

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 1/27/2021)

[Recent Disease Activity, by County Report](#) (as of 1/27/2021)

COVID-19 TESTING

DHEC has updated its BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing guidance to allow districts the option of using BinaxNOW test kits to test close contacts in quarantine (according to isolation and quarantine guidance) to end quarantine early for those districts and schools that choose to use the 7-day shortened quarantine option.

DHEC has also provided COVID-19 student and staff consent forms in Spanish for school and district use.

[School Rapid Antigen Testing Guidance](#) - **UPDATED**

[Student Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing \(Spanish\)](#) - **NEW**

ACCOUNTABILITY

Cyclical Review of South Carolina's Accountability System

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: John Payne, jrpayne@ed.sc.gov

Section 59-18-910 of the South Carolina Code of Law calls for the Education Oversight Committee (EOC), working with the South Carolina State Board of Education (SBE), and a broad-based group of stakeholders, to conduct a comprehensive cyclical review of the accountability system. One of the key charges for the cyclical review is to consider how the state's accountability system reflects evidence that students have developed the skills and characteristics outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

Pursuant to this legislative mandate, the EOC and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) convened the South Carolina Accountability Advisory Committee (AAC), comprised of members who represented the interests and priorities of various educational stakeholders in South Carolina. The EOC and SCDE contracted with the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (the Center) to facilitate the cyclical review process.

The AAC met a total of seven times from February to December 2020. The primary focus of the AAC's work was to identify educational policy priorities, discuss system design and implementation considerations and constraints, review key elements of the current accountability system, and, if deemed necessary, recommend changes to the accountability system. During the review process, the AAC was encouraged to offer innovative ideas for improving the existing accountability system and not be constrained by prior practices. However, the committee also attended to critical technical and operational considerations to ensure that the accountability system is coherent, defensible, useful, feasible, and compliant with state and federal requirements. What follows is a summary of the AAC's key findings and recommendations.

[Cyclical Review of South Carolina's Accountability System - Attachment](#) PDF (935 KB)

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Resources to Support African American History

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Principals

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In an effort to assist South Carolina teachers in providing high quality resources to appropriately celebrate Black History Month, the South Carolina Department of Education will provide educators with a series of four, weekly memoranda throughout the month of February that are intended to highlight current and pre-released resources developed to inform students' knowledge and understanding of African American History. These lessons and resources are not reserved just for the month of February, but should be used throughout the year to successfully teach all students.

[Resources to Support African American History - Memo](#) PDF (935 KB)

ESSER Updates and Guidance

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Chief Financial Officers, District School Business Officials

CONTACT: scesser@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updates to four key areas related to funds provided under the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) I and II programs. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has received a number of inquiries related to these four areas, and has sought additional legal consultation. Based on that consultation, the SCDE offers the following guidance.

[ESSER Updates and Guidance - Memo](#) PDF (176 KB)PDF (133 KB)

Technical Assistance Webinar: ESSER II Funds

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Finance and Business Officials, ESSER Contacts

CONTACT: scesser@ed.sc.gov

On **February 10, 2021, from 2:00-3:30 p.m.**, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) will host a virtual technical assistance session regarding the newly awarded Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds, as authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), which was signed into law on December 27, 2020.

The technical assistance session will provide an overview and background information for ESSER II funds, give districts information they will need to complete a spending plan, and provide other important information and reminders. While calendar invites will be sent to superintendents, chief financial officers, school business officials, and ESSER contacts, any school district leader interested in participating can use the below link and meeting details to access the meeting.

Event address:

<https://southcarolinadepartmentofeducation.webex.com/southcarolinadepartmentofeducation/onstage/g.php?MTID=e98b42ccfea59d950502e8ca94f6ec8bf>

Event Number: 179 286 2621

Event Password: esser

Audio conference: +1-415-655-0001, Access code: 179 286 2621