



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

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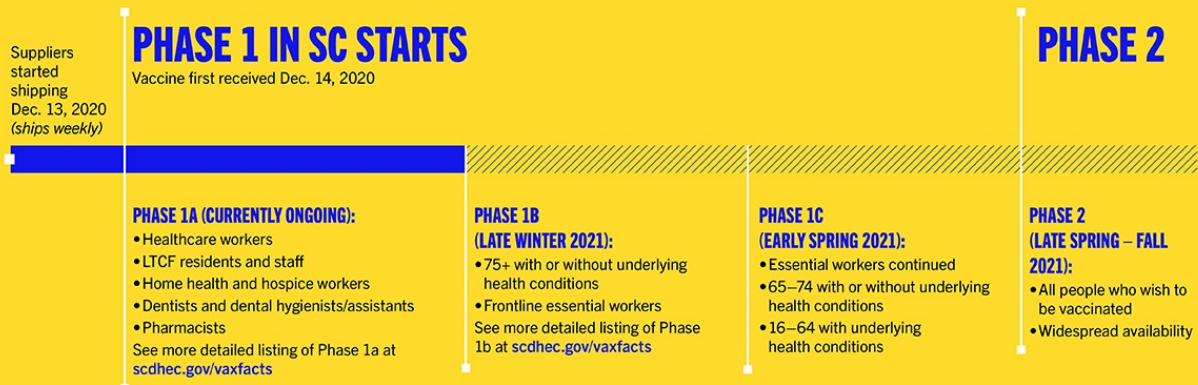
January 12, 2020

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



THE COVID-19 VACCINE

[DHEC COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#)

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

Individuals in Phase 1a who want to be vaccinated should [contact their local hospitals](#) to request and schedule an appointment no later than Jan. 15, 2021. Employers are also encouraged to reach out to their local hospitals as soon as possible, and no later than Jan. 15, 2021, with a list of names and contact information of employees who want to be vaccinated.

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 13, any South Carolina resident aged 70 or older, regardless of health status or preexisting conditions, [can begin scheduling their appointment to receive COVID-19 vaccine](#). A map with current locations accepting vaccine appointments will be available at scdhec.gov/vaxlocator beginning Wednesday, Jan 13.

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 instructions](#) to find a hospital in a neighboring county that is offering appointments. We have clarified this with the SCHA that hospitals are allowed to offer vaccination to anyone in the appropriate phase regardless of their county of residency.

Today, State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman asked DHEC and Governor McMaster to prioritize the vaccination of educators and school support staff who work with students face to face when Phase 1b begins. You can read a copy of her letter [here](#).

The SCDE hopes to share additional Phase 1b information from DHEC this week.

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 TESTING

Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Result COVID-19 Test Kits

A reminder that if a resupply of BinaxNOW tests are needed, please email PHPWarehouse@dhec.sc.gov to request tests and coordination receipt. Please include the name of the district or school and point of contact information.

BinaxNOW tests have expiration dates and should not be used once expired. If a district or school has a large supply of unused inventory, they may contact PHPWarehouse@dhec.sc.gov to arrange exchange of those tests. This must be done 2 weeks prior to the expiration date. Please include the number of test kits to be exchanged, the expiration date, the district or school name, and point of contact information.

[Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Result COVID-19 Test Kits](#)

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 **7,470** [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 1/12/2021) DHEC has reported **229,554** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **3.3%** 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 1/12/2020)

CERTIFICATION

Initial and Professional Educator Certificates Expiring June 30, 2021

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Personnel Administrators

CONTACT: Mary Hipp, mhipp@ed.sc.gov

This correspondence provides information regarding South Carolina Initial and Professional educator certificates that will expire on June 30, 2021, and includes guidance to assist educators impacted by the current public health emergency.

[Initial and Professional Educator Certificates Expiring June 30, 2021 - Memo](#) PDF (220 KB)

GRANTS

2021 Summer Reading Camp Community Partnership Grant Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers, Community Partner Organizations

CONTACT: Ablean Hanna, ahanna@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2021 Summer Reading Camp (SRC) Community Partnership Grant (CPG) under Proviso 1.57 of the General Appropriations Act is now available online. Approximately \$700,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis. The deadline to apply is **5:00 p.m., February 25, 2021**. Applications must be submitted [online](#) and will not be accepted after this deadline.

The purpose of the SRC CPG is to provide grants to provide additional resources to support the SC Read to Succeed Act of 2014 by creating effective partnerships between community organizations and school districts to provide students who are significantly below grade-level reading proficiency with the opportunity to receive quality, intensive instructional services and support.

[2021 Summer Reading Camp Community Partnership Grant Opportunity - Memo](#) PDF (139 KB)

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Instructional Materials Review Panel Recommendations

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Kriss Stewart, kstewart@ed.sc.gov

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved the subject areas that will have instructional materials reviewed and adopted for the 2021 adoption cycle. Instructional Materials Review Panels will be created for these subject areas according to the SBE regulations. Your assistance is needed to establish the pool of candidates from which

nominees and alternates for the Review Panels will be selected. Please use the attached Excel spreadsheet to provide your recommendations for outstanding teachers currently teaching in the subject areas listed or district content area specialists. Your recommendations need to be submitted by email to Kriss Stewart (kstewart@ed.sc.gov) by **February 8, 2021**.

In March, each nominee will receive a letter of invitation. The Instructional Materials Review Panels will meet in June and September and will receive reimbursement for expenses to attend scheduled meetings. These meetings could be held virtually because of COVID-19. Districts will receive reimbursement for substitute pay.

[Instructional Materials Review Panel Recommendations - Memo](#) PDF (138 KB)

[District Recommendations for Nominees on the 2021 Instructional Materials Review Panels - Attachment](#) Excel (26 KB)

COVID-19 EMPLOYEE LEAVE

Emergency COVID-19 Leave

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Personnel Administrators, Chief Financial Officers

On December 31, 2020 the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) (FFCRA) and the federally required paid sick leave requirements expired as a result of Congress failing to reauthorize the Act. While school districts are no longer federally required to provide these COVID-19 related leave rights, there is adequate federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund to cover leave for school district employees in 2021.

The ESSER includes a provision which enables districts to use the funds for activities necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services by continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency. This allowable provision will ensure that districts can cover costs associated with personnel pay and leave should there be a deficit in other existing funds. Similarly, an additional emergency relief bill recently passed by Congress and signed by the President provides further funding to states and school districts to address the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public education. This funding, which amounts to over \$940 million for South Carolina K-12 schools, too contains a provision for the use of funds for continuity of services.

[Emergency COVID-19 Leave - Memo](#) PDF (141 KB)

TRAINING

Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals

CONTACT: Chenise Wiley, dcwiley@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Student Intervention Services will host Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training and Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training January 26–28, 2021, for district and school administrators and personnel responsible for staff training.

There is no cost to participate in either of the virtual, three-day training sessions; however, registration is required and space is limited. Because the training sessions are being held simultaneously, individuals should only register for either the youth session or the adult session, not both. Additionally, all registrants must be available to participate fully in each of

the three days.

[Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training - Memo](#) PDF (160 KB)

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