



Immunization Champions Program Description

Supporting Schools with Immunizations

(Accompaniment to WFD Safe Schools Direct Allocation Letter to LHJs)

Funds to Support Schools and Immunizations

In the wake of the pandemic, many children in California are behind on their routine immunizations. In addition, immunization rates against COVID-19 in the 5–11-year-old population remain low. To address this, we have time-limited funds to hire or designate staff to support immunizations in schools.

There are about 1,000 schools in CA with kindergarten immunization rates below 90%, making them vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, pertussis and chickenpox, that are expected to return over the next years. Many schools and families have faced major challenges in ensuring immunization during the pandemic. Preliminary analyses of the most recent school years indicate that overdue rates have increased as up-to-date levels have decreased. Additionally, most of California's children could benefit from additional protection against COVID-19.

How can these funds be used for staffing?

This *Immunization Champions* funding originates from a CDC workforce development grant that must be spent on **staff** supporting **schools** and cannot be used to supplant other funding. Funds can be used to support TK and K-12 settings but **not** to support childcare populations.

Funds can be used for:

- Hiring internally (which may include contract staff or interns)
- Subcontracting to Community Based Organizations to support schools (Note: Any CBO's contracted with may only use the funds to hire staff to perform the scope of activities noted below)
- Hiring through staffing agencies with whom you might have existing contracts (e.g. Maxim, Ro Health, Cross Country etc.) to support schools
- Increasing the hours of part-time staff to full-time, expanding staff hours or clinical hours
- Paying for staff who have been redirected for COVID-19 vaccine activities in schools

- Paying for licensed or unlicensed staff to work in back-to-school events or school-located vaccine events
- Covering benefits, equipment, travel for hired staff

What types of activities can staff funded with this grant do?

Staff funded with this grant can assist in any of the following activities at schools. We recommend that you focus on high risk or more vulnerable schools.

- Review student immunization (IZ) records, advise/train school staff in follow-up with families whose students are behind on immunizations, ensure enrolled students are up-to-date.
- Conduct back-to-school immunization events and catch children up on missing vaccines.
- Coordinate immunization records needed during school outbreaks of COVID-19 and/or for additional state policies and requirements.
- Support school to comply with any future or local COVID-19 vaccine mandates.
- Help enroll school in and produce reports from the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) Schools Module.
- Provide technical assistance to school to report immunization coverage levels for students as required by California Law.
- Build capacity within the school to support COVID-19 vaccination and meet routine school requirements. Train and support permanent staff on current and future immunization reporting and support activities.
- Coordinate school-located immunization events for COVID-19 vaccines (and seasonal influenza or other infectious disease threats).
- Work with school staff to complete CDPH immunization trainings on school law, reporting, CAIR and school-located vaccinations to support school with all immunization-related activities.
- Support school staff in connecting families with resources to ensure children are up to date on vaccinations.

What are the reporting requirements for the funds?

Reporting requirements are minimal. Local Health Jurisdictions will be required to report the following every 6 months: the number of personnel hired, their status and the associated costs.

Timeline for Funds

These CDC funds intended for supporting immunizations and schools must be spent by June 30, 2023.

Tools/Resources

The following resources can help guide/train anyone working in schools to increase immunization coverage or put on vaccination events:

Website for all matters related to Schools and Immunizations	Shots for School (ca.gov) - https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/shotsforschool.aspx
How to determine your most vulnerable schools – download an xls file of your county and search for all schools below 90% -- look for overdue and conditional entrant rates above 2% too	Transitional Kindergarten & 7th Grade- Reports https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/tk-12-reports.aspx
Information for schools on how to process medical exemptions	CDPH CAIR ME - https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions/home
Training resources to implement school immunization law	Implementation Tools (ca.gov) - https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/resources-implementation.aspx
Resources for conducting school-located vaccine events	Resources for School-Located Vaccination - https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/resources-clinics.aspx
Resources for annual reporting of school immunization rates	Immunization Reporting - https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/reporting.aspx -
Resources for putting on Back-to-School events	#DontWaitVaccinate Toolkits – California IZ Coalition - https://www.immunizeca.org/DontWaitVaccinate/

Contact Information

- Questions about school immunization law or school located vaccine events can be directed to SchoolVaxTeam@cdph.ca.gov
- Questions about the Workforce Development Grant supporting immunizations in schools can be directed to CDPHSchoolsWFD@cdph.ca.gov