



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

330 C Street, S.W., Washington DC 20201 | [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

Dear CCDF Administrators,

On September 9, 2021, President Biden announced new steps to combat the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including plans for vaccination requirements for teachers and staff at Head Start and Early Head Start programs, teachers and child and youth program personnel at the Department of Defense, and teachers and staff at Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools. The President also called on Governors to require vaccinations for teachers and school staff.

To help ensure the safety of children, families, and staff, the Office of Child Care (OCC) strongly encourages you to require all staff employed by child care programs in your state, territory, or tribal jurisdiction to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Scientific [studies](#) have shown that even one unvaccinated teacher can lead to dozens of sick children. The Delta variant is more contagious than the original virus that causes COVID-19 and it currently accounts for more than 99 percent of cases in the United States. Surrounding young children with fully vaccinated adults as the first line of defense will help protect young children against infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.

The [COVID-19 vaccines](#) are safe and authorized or approved by the [Food and Drug Administration](#) and recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and are very effective at preventing hospitalization and death from the virus. Requiring adult staff to be fully vaccinated will help child care programs safely remain open and give comfort to the millions of parents who rely on them every day to keep their children safe and healthy. COVID-19 vaccines are free and widely available. Anyone can make an appointment at a convenient location by visiting [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) lead agencies have several mechanisms to implement policies requiring child care staff to be fully vaccinated, including changes to child care licensing regulations and/or child care subsidy requirements. At a minimum, lead agencies should apply vaccine requirements to all child care programs caring for the over 1.4 million children receiving assistance under the CCDF program. However, to ensure the health and safety of the millions of children in child care programs who do not participate in CCDF, OCC recommends extending the requirements to all licensed and legally operating license-exempt child care programs. Lead agencies do not have to submit amendments to their CCDF Plans to implement these policy changes.

While the COVID-19 vaccines are available free of charge, CCDF lead agencies are encouraged to use regular and supplemental CCDF funding, including funds provided under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, to help child care staff get vaccinated. These supports may include providing additional funding to child care programs so staff have paid time off to receive the vaccine and recover from any



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vaccine after-effects. Funds can also be used to provide stipends to staff to cover the cost of transportation to a vaccine site.

Thank you for your important work on behalf of children and families. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your [OCC Regional Office](#).

Sincerely,

/s/

Ruth Friedman, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of Child Care