

February 5, 2021

Dr. Rochelle Walensky
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
rwalensky@cdc.gov

Dear Dr. Walensky,

The American School Health Association (ASHA) embraces the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model and the coordination of all ten components to ensure student health and well-being. This includes the component of staff wellness. Teachers and school personnel have risen to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure a safe return to in-person instruction within our nation's schools. Now that a vaccine is available to adults, school personnel including instructional staff, administrators, and paraprofessionals must be prioritized in its distribution.

The Biden administration has prioritized the return to in-person instruction, which makes it critical that school personnel are prioritized to receive vaccinations. Federal guidance and recommendations from DHS CISA and CDC consider school personnel "essential workers", including them in Phase 1b. These recommendations are borne out of the daily risk these individuals take in their dedication to their vocation and our children. On a daily basis, our school professionals and paraprofessionals provide not only academic instruction, but they also engage crucial services and support for our students' and families' overall well-being. However, despite the recommendations and the known risk, most school personnel are not eligible to receive the vaccine at this time per state distribution plans. As such, ASHA recommends that CDC encourage states to prioritize school personnel in distribution plans. In addition, staff should be encouraged and incentivized to receive the vaccine as soon as possible.



Kayce Solari Williams, PhD
President, ASHA



Jeanie Alter, PhD
Executive Director, ASHA

February 5, 2021

Bill McBride
Executive Director, National Governors Association
info@nga.org

Dear Mr. McBride,

The American School Health Association (ASHA) embraces the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model and the coordination of all ten components to ensure student health and well-being. This includes the component of staff wellness. Teachers and school personnel have risen to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure a safe return to in-person instruction within our nation's schools. Now that a vaccine is available to adults, school personnel including instructional staff, administrators, and paraprofessionals must be prioritized in its distribution.

The Biden administration has prioritized the return to in-person instruction, which makes it critical that school personnel are prioritized to receive vaccinations. Federal guidance and recommendations from [DHS CISA](#) and [CDC](#) consider school personnel "essential workers", including them in Phase 1b. These recommendations are borne out of the daily risk these individuals take in their dedication to their vocation and our children. On a daily basis, our school professionals and paraprofessionals provide not only academic instruction, but they also engage crucial services and support for our students' and families' overall well-being. However, despite the recommendations and the known risk, most school personnel are not eligible to receive the vaccine at this time per state distribution plans. As such, ASHA encourages states to prioritize school personnel in distribution plans. In addition, staff should be encouraged and incentivized to receive the vaccine as soon as possible.



Kayce Solari Williams, PhD
President, ASHA



Jeanie Alter, PhD
Executive Director, ASHA

