

What is VEBA?

California Schools VEBA (VEBA), a non-profit health care trust, is committed to ensuring all education members have access to equitable and high quality care. As part of this mission, VEBA has volunteered to coordinate the aggregation and validation of K-12 and community college education employees in San Diego County.

Why are VEBA and SDCOE involved in vaccinating school employees?

Because of the large number of people in Phase 1b, the County of San Diego asked SDCOE and VEBA to assist in vaccination appointment scheduling.

SDCOE's role is to work with schools to notify them of eligibility based on criteria set by the County of San Diego. VEBA will serve in a volunteer capacity to maintain the eligibility portal and coordinate the appointment process for eligible employees.

Are charter and private school employees eligible to be vaccinated through VEBA? What if my school or district is not a member of VEBA?

All employees of TK-12 district, charter, and private schools are eligible to participate in the VEBA vaccination events, regardless of their insurance status. There is no cost for participating in a VEBA vaccination event and no insurance information will be collected.

With the opening of Phase 1B - Tier 1, community college employees are eligible to participate in the County vaccination sites. Following the TK-12 vaccination rollout, any remaining eligible community college employees will be able to enroll in a VEBA vaccination event.

What's the HPI? Who selected it as the basis of prioritization?

Following direction from the County of San Diego, SDCOE based prioritization on the [Healthy Places Index \(HPI\)](#), a report on the health of each census tract in California, where the lowest quartile (4) equates to a tract with the lowest combination of health, education, and financial conditions. The highest quartile is 1. SDCOE calculated the HPI quartile (1-4) for each school by converting the school's street address to a census tract using U.S. Census geocoding. If an HPI value couldn't be found for a particular tract, the closest adjacent tract was used.

Why is school location a factor when determining vaccines for education workers?

Directing vaccination resources in this manner addresses COVID-19 health inequities and supports the schools in those communities, which have had transmission rates well above the county average and tend to serve students who are low-income, Black, Latino, Pacific Islander, or the children of essential workers.

How can I find a list of which schools are in which quartile?

HPI quartiles for schools are listed on [SDCOE's school reopening dashboard](#).

Why are in-person education employees not being prioritized?

In prioritizing, SDCOE is following criteria directed by the County of San Diego intended to address health equity in the face of limited vaccine supply. We are monitoring the situation and working closely with the County of San Diego and will adjust priorities as possible. In an effort to vaccinate school employees as quickly as possible, the County has committed to allocating 20% of available vaccine to education, which is twice the state requirement of Phase 1B - tier 1.

Where will vaccination appointments be available?

As of February 25, 2021 VEBA will be working with UC San Diego Health and Sharp HealthCare to offer appointments at the following locations:

- UC San Diego Health Locations
 - Recreation, Intramural, and Athletic Complex (RIMAC) on UC San Diego Campus
 - Petco Park Vaccination Super Center
- Sharp Healthcare Locations
 - Grossmont Center
 - Chula Vista Center
 - Coronado
 - Knollwood Building

How do I know if I'm eligible to make an appointment? How will I make an appointment?

Leaders of schools in qualifying neighborhoods will receive an email from SDCOE with details on how to submit information on eligible employees to VEBA. Once VEBA receives submissions from qualifying schools, employees will receive a notification from their employer with a link to access a secure VEBA portal where they can schedule their appointment.

When will the next group of eligible employees be able to get vaccinated? What is the timeframe for subsequent rounds?

The timing of vaccinations for school employees in first, second, and third quartiles will depend on vaccine supply and the number of employees in each quartile. SDCOE will notify leaders in qualifying schools when employees become eligible to make appointments.

What if an education employee already made an appointment for vaccination at a County of San Diego vaccination site?

Employees of K-12 schools should not make appointments through the county's reservation portals. Appointments will not be honored for K-12 employees who use the wrong reservation system