

Partnering With Pharmacies for SLVEs

What is a School-Located Vaccine Event (SLVE)?

At a school-located vaccine event (SLVE), vaccines are administered at a school to students and staff. SLVEs can include vaccines that ALL students potentially need, like seasonal flu or COVID-19 vaccines, and can also include Tdap, HPV, meningococcal or other vaccines.

Why SLVEs?

Benefits of SLVEs include:

- Convenience for families
- Decreased illness-related absenteeism
- Timely immunization
- Increased immunity for students, staff, student families and their communities
- Decreased seasonal burden on healthcare providers

SLVE Resources

- SLVE Resources and Templates on [ShotsforSchool.org](https://shotsforschool.org) (bit.ly/CDPHSLVEResources)
- CDPH Director and Health Officer [Letter of Support](#) (bit.ly/CDPHSLVELetterofSupport) for SLVEs
- Questions? Email us at schoolvaxteam@cdph.ca.gov

Why Partner with Pharmacies?

- California pharmacists can vaccinate anyone ages 3 years and older, including students in transitional kindergarten or higher grades.
- Pharmacists can vaccinate students without parents or guardians present if consent is given in advance by the parent or guardian.
- Chain and independent pharmacies are widely accessible and serve a variety of populations. Pharmacies can extend event hours and adjust staffing, depending on their resources.
- Pharmacies offer electronic systems for advance registration, consent, appointment reminders, and insurance billing. A registration link or QR code can be integrated into school marketing materials.
- Pharmacy systems report administered vaccine doses to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) and can also notify primary care providers about doses given at SLVEs.
- Pharmacies can bill a variety of insurance plans, including commercial plans which often cover vaccines as a pharmacy benefit.
- Pharmacies can provide the vaccine and necessary clinical supplies, and schools only need to provide space, tables, chairs, and logistical support.

Getting Started

- Ensure there is a need and demand for certain vaccines at your school.
- Identify and ask pharmacies near your school about partnering for a SLVE.
- Designate a point of contact at the school to communicate consistently and coordinate with the pharmacy throughout vaccine event planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Real World Examples

An independent pharmacy in a suburban area of Southern California partnered with a community-based organization to give COVID-19 and flu vaccines to students, staff, family, and community members at 10 different schools including elementary, high schools, and colleges.

A retail grocery store/pharmacy organized over 12 vaccine events at schools in underserved areas, partnering with various organizations, including local public health departments, private, and non-profit organizations.

The California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program (VFC) offers federally purchased vaccines to children who are eligible for Medi-Cal or uninsured. An independent pharmacist in a rural county who participates in VFC conducted an SLVE at a middle school in partnership with the local Medi-Cal managed care plan. The pharmacist brought VFC and privately purchased HPV, Tdap, and Meningococcal vaccines. The Medi-Cal managed care plan reimbursed for out of network doses.

A retail grocery store/pharmacy held 105 school-based vaccination events before and during the pandemic in all Southern California areas served by their pharmacies. They provided flu, COVID-19, and Tdap vaccines and collaborated with local health departments for these events whenever feasible.

Practical Tips

- Plan well in advance; pharmacies need at least three weeks lead time to ensure they have ample vaccine supply and staff. Responsive and timely communication between the school and pharmacy is essential.
- Most pharmacies require a minimum number of participants for vaccination events; most events last a minimum of three hours.
- Some pharmacies may require the school to be within 30 miles of the pharmacy.
- Pre-registration is recommended to:
 - Help pharmacies determine the event size, duration and number of vaccines needed.
 - Prevent vaccine wastage.
 - Help determine when vaccines being administered have specific storage and handling requirements.
- If school staff are also being offered vaccines at the event, the pharmacy should verify the employees' health plan vaccine coverage in advance.
- Discuss how to promote the event(s) with the pharmacy partner. While schools are responsible for marketing materials (e.g., flyers, social media content) and communication to the school community, pharmacies may provide sample materials.
- For seasonal flu vaccine events, schools should contact pharmacies no later than September.

Potential Challenges or Issues

- Most pharmacies are not Vaccines for Children providers and are not able to be reimbursed for vaccinating Medi-Cal-enrolled students except for with COVID-19 vaccine (through 2024).
- Pharmacies requiring a minimum number of individuals may charge a fee if this minimum is not met.
- If pharmacies will not have access to a secure network during the event, they may need to assess insurance coverage in advance of the event. Alternatively, pharmacies may assess coverage after the event but then may face challenges with full reimbursement.
- Certain managed care insurance plans might not cover pharmacy-administered vaccines if they are not in network.
- Although pharmacies can bill a variety of insurance plans, whether or not a copay is required depends on how the vaccines are covered.

Partnering Pharmacies for an SLVE

- Contact your nearest pharmacy to inquire about availability, services offered, and requirements.
- Below is the list of pharmacies that can be a great partner for an SLVE.

Organization	Description/Contact Information of Local Representative	Request Clinic Form
Independent Pharmacies	These are search links for finding nearby independent pharmacies: <u>National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Independent Pharmacy Locator</u> (bit.ly/NCPALocator)	Intentionally blank
Albertsons (Northern CA: Safeway Southern CA: Pavilions, Sav-on, Vons)	Contact: <u>vaccineclinics@albertsons.com</u> Northern CA Contact: Lisa Hong (Northern CA) Email: <u>lisa.hong@albertsons.com</u> Southern CA Contact: Chi Nguyen (Southern CA) Email: <u>chi.nguyen4@albertsons.com</u>	<u>Albertsons Pharmacy Business Services</u> (bit.ly/BuildyourAlbertsonsVAXclinic) Submit a request: <u>B2B-Rx: Clinic Request</u> (albertsonscorporation.com) (bit.ly/RequestyourAlbertsonsVAXclinic)
Costco	Contact: Beth Arnold Email: <u>betharnold@costco.com</u> Contact: Becky Dant Email: <u>rdant@costco.com</u>	Send an email to contacts to submit a request.
CVS	Contact: Carla Saporta Cheng Email: <u>Carla.saportacheng@cvshealth.com</u>	Email <u>VaccineClinics@CVSHealth.com</u> to request updated On-Site Vaccine Clinic Client Guide and questions.

Organization	Description/Contact Information of Local Representative	Request Clinic Form
Kroger (Ralphs)	Contact: Linh Lee Email: linh.lee@ralphs.com Contact: Lord V Sarino Email: lord.sarino@ralphs.com	Vaccines & Immunization Services (krogerhealth.com) (bit.ly/KrogersVaxServices) Submit a Request: Request Health Services (krogerhealth.com) (bit.ly/RequestyourKrogersVAXclinic)
Rite Aid	Contact: Christopher Altman Email: christopher.D.altman@riteaid.com	Submit a request: Rite Aid Set Up A Vaccine Clinic (bit.ly/RiteAidVaxCommunityClinic) OR Shield Your Workforce (riteaid.com) (bit.ly/RiteAidOrgVaxClinic)
Walgreens	Contact: Anthony Perez Email: anthony.perez@walgreens.com Website: Resources for Schools (bit.ly/CDPHSLVEResources)	Vaccine Clinic Request: Vaccine Clinic Request (bit.ly/WalgreensIZServices)
Walmart (Including Sam's Club)	Contact: Michelle Leclerc Email: michelle.leclerc@walmart.com	Submit a Request: Walmart Vaccine Interest Survey (wrike.com) (bit.ly/WalmartVAXinterest) Walmart Clinic - STChealth (bit.ly/RequestWalmartVAXclinic)