

# Partnering With Academic Institutions for SLVEs

(Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, e.g.)

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

## Why Partner with Academic Institutions?

- Clinical students can vaccinate or staff other roles *at no cost*, reducing expenses of your events.
- Students can assist with community outreach, trainings, and data entry or other activities.
- Students can generally vaccinate all ages, so your SLVEs could also serve students' families, school staff, or the community.
- Colleges and universities are located throughout the state and have diverse student bodies often representative of the local community.
- Establishing a relationship with an academic institution can provide regular and steady staffing for your events.
- Academic institutions can support vaccination in underserved areas.
- Students can fulfill clinical hours requirements while gaining knowledge and experience.

## Getting Started

- Identify the needs or activities for which you need staffing. Vaccinators can include nursing, pharmacy, and medical students.
- Identify colleges or universities located near the school(s) hosting the event.
- Contact the academic institution and ask to connect with faculty in community health, service-based learning, vaccinology, or health education, as examples. You can also ask if the institution has a mobile clinic or health van.

## Practical Tips

- Plan well in advance (4-6 months), as academic institutions need to plan student activities early to ensure their clinical hour requirements are met.
- You might need a clearance agreement for clinical students. An attestation statement from the institution (e.g., that all students have met immunizations or TB screening requirements) is more efficient than having students submit individual records.
- Partnerships have been more successful when students are completing hours for a course requirement rather than volunteering.
- Identify any language needs and request to assign students accordingly.
- Determine the clinical supervisors (such as faculty or clinical instructor) for any students vaccinating at the event. The academic program should certify the student's competency to vaccinate, but other partners (such as a local health jurisdiction) may have additional training requirements.
- Once a partnership is established, work closely with the school's principal or designated point-of-contact, who will best understand their school community and how to communicate effectively.
- Consider requesting that students participate in plain scrubs or professional clothes, instead of white coats, to reduce younger children's anxiety around vaccination.

## Real World Examples

*A local health jurisdiction in Northern California partnered with four local nursing schools, whose students served as vaccinators, and a school of public health, for operational support, for an annual, city-wide school-located influenza vaccination program.*

*A large managed care plan in Southern California partnered with several local nursing schools, whose students vaccinated at an annual, multi-county, multi-district school-located influenza vaccination program. Nursing faculty provided clinical training and oversight during vaccination events.*

## Potential Challenges or Issues

- Academic institutions will be limited by their academic schedule and normal working hours in terms of when they can provide students.
- Academic institutions may have needs (e.g., number of students placed) that differ from the needs of SLVE organizers.
- Some host schools may have requirements around who can precept the clinical students. For example, nursing students may have to be precepted by the host school's nurse.