

Medi-Cal Managed Care (MMC) Plan Partnerships to Support 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 Should MMC Plans Support SLVEs?

- To reduce barriers to vaccination for access-challenged communities.
- To improve quality metrics related to school-aged children vaccination coverage rates.

Getting Started

- Determine what role the plan will take in an event (e.g. promotion, funding) and who within the plan will lead the plan's efforts (e.g. Community Engagement, Program Development, Quality Improvement).
- Investigate which community partnerships might already exist between schools and community organizations related to school health.
- Consider talking with the [local health department's immunization program](#) (bit.ly/CAIhd), local immunization coalitions or school nurses' groups.
- Consider reaching out to the county office of education to help identify a specific district or school to work with. You can also view school-reported immunization rates on the [Shots for School website](#) (bit.ly/CDPH-S4S) to identify schools with lower immunization rates.

Practical Tips

- Knowing who to work with at a school/school district is essential. In some places it might be the superintendent or principal, in others the school nurse and still others it might be another school gatekeeper (front office staff or engaged parent/guardian). Collaborating with existing school health efforts can help you determine the best point of contact.

- The more inclusive vaccine administration is for all individuals, regardless of their insurance type or status, the more successful an event will be.
- Consider pairing a vaccine event with other school-based events or coordinate with other health and social services to maximize attendance and reach.
- Use a preregistration and pre-consent system, such as [My Turn](#) to minimize administrative work and allow ample time for event promotion.
- Start small with a pilot.
- Your initial investment into building a partnership will likely take more resources (time, funding) than will ongoing partnership.

Potential Challenges or Issues

- **Vaccine Supply:** Identifying a vaccine source(s) for all students can be challenging. Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine can only be used for Medi-Cal eligible, Native American/Alaska Native and uninsured participants. If an event is open to all students at a school, consider how to supply or fund private stock vaccine (such as by partnering with a pharmacy or provider able to bill multiple insurance types).
- **Billing:** If you are billing for vaccine administration and other associated fees, consider how you will bill for any type of insurance (competing MMC plan, private PPO e.g.). Be aware that you will not be able to bill for students with private HMO insurance. Consider how you can still offer services to these students as it will likely be a small number within your target audience.
- Due to the hyperlocal nature of some events, it may be difficult to scale up or replicate partnerships/events across geographic areas.

Examples of Partnership

- Promote or encourage SLVEs with your plan's providers.
- Provide financial incentives for your plan's providers to participate in SLVEs.
- Provide in-kind staffing to administer vaccine or provide administrative support to existing events.
- Provide food or incentives at an event.
- Direct financial support
 - Pay a percentage of an SLVE partnership's operating costs based on the portion of individuals vaccinated covered by your plan.
 - Pay a fee per dose for everyone vaccinated at an SLVE who is covered by your plan.
 - Pay a flat fee per event.
 - Provide a grant to support a local SLVE partnership.

Real World Example

In a rural, northern California county, SLVEs were held through a partnership between the local health department, the local MMC plan and an independent pharmacy. The local health department provided Vaccines for Children vaccine, and the pharmacy provided privately purchased vaccine. The pharmacy managed the event with the school nurses. The MMC plan reimbursed the pharmacy a flat fee per event to cover non-reimbursable costs, ensuring that no student was turned away from the event based on their insurance status.