

Partnering With Local Health Departments (LHDs) 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 LHDs? They Offer Extensive Experience With:

- [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\)](#) (bit.ly/EZIZ-VFC).
- Mass vaccination events, vaccine transport, and working within the community.
- Entering doses into state immunization registries.
- Local schools/districts, community-based organizations (CBOs) and medical provider communities
- Knowledge of local gaps or challenges in access to vaccines.
- Training partners in using the registry, vaccination administration, and storage and handling.
- Working with and vaccinating children.

Getting Started

- Identify schools or districts that potentially have the biggest vaccine access issues (e.g. [Healthy Places Index \(HPI\)](#) Q1 or Q2 location, high # of students participating in the free/reduced lunch program), where access to vaccine at school would have the greatest impact.
- Get support from district-level administrators.
- Identify a coordinator at the school(s) for central communication and planning assistance.
- Build relationships with your local education agency (LEA) – and regularly participate as a partner in LEA/district/school meetings.
- Take advantage of lessons learned from other health programs located in schools.

Practical Tips

- Order VFC vaccine at least four weeks ahead of time to ensure supply is sufficient for the SLVE(s). Be sure to add in the notes section that the vaccine is for school events scheduled at certain dates.
- Communicate regularly with CDPH/VFC and inform them of your SLVE plans in order to reduce any potential vaccine supply or management issues.
- Some schools may require MOUs or Facility Use Agreements – complete any school requirements as soon as possible if needed.
 - If an MOU is needed, consider including other health services (e.g. oral health, behavioral health) in the agreement to avoid having to complete MOUs repeatedly.
- If additional staffing is needed, consider including other partners, such as pharmacies, academic institutions, or community health centers.

Real World Examples

A small LHD in northern California collaborates with local schools to host annual SLVEs throughout the year (e.g., flu in the fall, pre-teen vaccine week, and Kindergarten round up). The LHD also provides educational sessions during the SLVEs to inform parents/guardians about vaccines. School staff play an integral role by monitoring students' vaccination records and referring students to the LHD events or a provider to get up to date on school-required immunizations.

A large LHD located in central California supports local SLVEs by supplying vaccines to schools where the school district nurses administer the vaccine to students on-site. Upon request, the LHD provides on-site training to SLVE staff.

Potential Challenges or Issues

- VFC vaccine can only be used in VFC-eligible individuals. If you will be vaccinating individuals with commercial insurers which the LHD cannot bill, consider partnering with pharmacies or other providers that bill commercial insurers. These partners can likely bring vaccine supplies for commercially insured individuals as well.
- Changes in school/district level leadership can affect your event. Communicate consistently with schools when planning an event so that all staff remain informed.