Frequently Asked Questions:
2025-2026 School-Located Vaccination (SLV) Clinics for Flu

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Office of Immunization, in partnership with The Wellness Company (TWC), provides school-located flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics statewide.

Who is the school liaison and what is their role?
Your school liaison is a representative from your school staff (usually a school nurse or principal) who serves as the single point-of-contact for the school's vaccination clinic. The liaison schedules the clinic, secures the space, and facilitates clinic advertisement.

Who can attend school-located vaccination (SLV) Clinics?
Each school liaison identifies participants during the scheduling process. Daytime clinics are typically hosted for students and staff/faculty and may require an account log in to sign up and attend. Most evening clinics are open to the public.

Where can I find a list of the school clinics?
2025 school clinics are posted and updated regularly online. Visit schoolflu.com

What vaccines are administered at SLV clinics?

- Flu Injectable (age 3 and older)
- FluMist (age 3-18)
- Flu vaccine for older adults (age 65 and older)
- Updated COVID-19 vaccine (age 5 and older)

Do any of the vaccines offered contain preservatives or latex?
No. None of the vaccines contain preservatives or latex.

The 2025-2026 flu vaccines for the United States will contain three viral strains:

- Two strains against Influenza A (H1N1 and H3N2 strains)
- One strain against Influenza B

Will the flu vaccine protect me from COVID-19?
No. The flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, because they are different respiratory viruses. However, flu and COVID-19 spread from person-to-person in similar ways. Especially during respiratory virus season (October-March), these two different vaccinations reduce the risks of severe illness, hospitalization, and death, and help stop each virus from spreading to other people.

What ready-made resources will the school receive?
Beginning in September, the designated contact(s) will receive a digital toolkit, which will include educational materials, promotional templates, and a flyer.

The flyer includes:

- Date, time, and location of clinic(s)
- Link and QR code to online registration
- Fee details: No out-of-pocket cost; insurance information collected, if available
- Contact information for questions or to receive information in other languages

Templates will be sent for use with email, text, phone messages, and social media posts.

What are the best ways to advertise the clinic and increase participation?

- School calendar and website
- Share digital or printed flyers with families
- Post on social media platforms (posts provided)
- Phone and text messaging applications (templates provided)
- Newsletters: include facts about the importance of vaccination and provide link to registration
- Involve Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Daily announcement: include fast facts and clinic date reminder
- School marquis or other highly visible signage

*Schools should advertise **often** and in **various ways** to maximize reach.*

How do students, staff/faculty, and family members register for a clinic?

- Register at schoolflu.com.
- Scan the QR code with a smart phone camera.
- Call the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) InfoLine at 401-222-5960 for help with online registration or translation assistance.

Is online registration required prior to the clinic?
Online registration is highly recommended to ensure clinics have adequate staffing and supplies. Appointments also reduce wait times. Walk-in registration is often limited based on available resources. Whenever possible, walk-ins are served on a first-come, first-served basis.

Can minors who are age 16 or older consent for vaccine?
Yes. Rhode Island minors age 16 or older can consent for themselves (RIGL: 23-4.6-1).

What if students, staff, or families cannot attend the flu vaccination clinic(s) scheduled at their school?
To find another community clinic that best fits their schedule, families can visit schoolflu.com.

How will home-schooled children be vaccinated?
To find a community clinic that best fits their schedule, families with home-schooled children can visit schoolflu.com.

Will students/families be required to provide identification?
No. Legal identification is not required. Immigration status will not be asked.

How do patients or guardians receive proof of vaccination for children?

- If an email is provided during online registration, proof will be sent to that address.
- If no email is provided, patients can take a picture of their completed immunization record at the time of vaccination.
- After a clinic, you may request proof of vaccination by calling The Wellness Company at 401-461-0662.
- All vaccinations are also reported to the Rhode Island Child and Adult Immunization Registry (RICAIR) within 48 hours of vaccination.
    - Doctors and healthcare professionals can also access RICAIR to update patients' medical records.

Is there a mandatory wait time after vaccination?
Yes. Everyone will be asked to wait 10 minutes after their vaccination in case of an adverse reaction. Parents should be instructed to supervise their children after the vaccination and contact the nurse if they notice any unusual symptoms. During daytime clinics, teachers will be asked to monitor students and refer them to the nurse if a reaction occurs.

Can pregnant students be vaccinated in schools?
No. Students who are pregnant will be directed to their obstetricians' office.

What are the current guidelines for getting the COVID-19 vaccine?
RIDOH and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend **everyone 6 months of age and older get an updated 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 this fall and winter whether they've previously been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine or not. Updated COVID-19 vaccines will be available at school clinics.

The virus that causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, is always changing and protection from COVID-19 vaccines declines over time. Receiving an updated 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine can restore and enhance protection against the virus variants currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. COVID-19 vaccination also reduces the chance of suffering the effects of Long COVID, which can develop during or following acute infection and last for an extended duration.

For example, people who received a 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine saw greater protection against illness and hospitalization than those who did not receive a 2023-2024 vaccine. To date, hundreds of millions of people have safely received a COVID-19 vaccine under the most intense vaccine safety monitoring in United States history.