

## **Updated Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (ESIT) Program Vaccination Guidance**

Gov. Jay Inslee's [Proclamation 21-14](#) requires state employees, health care workers, education staff, and most child care and early learning staff to **be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18, 2021, as a condition of employment.**

More recently, [President Biden announced his vaccine requirements for covered federal contractors and private employers with 100+ employees](#) in his [Path out of the Pandemic: COVID-19 Action Plan](#).

President Biden's announcement requires that all staff, regardless of position, working in agencies that receive Medicaid funding through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) be vaccinated. Since billing Medicaid and receiving payment for eligible services is an ESIT contract requirement, **this effectively means that all staff employed by an ESIT Provider Agency are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19.**

**Being fully vaccinated is deemed a necessary prerequisite for the provision of in-person ESIT services by the state lead agency** due to the high risk of working with potentially unvaccinated and vulnerable children and caregivers. This means that direct service providers who were granted a vaccination exemption and are eligible for reasonable accommodation must also be eligible for 100% tele-practice. **If a position requires in-person service delivery, it is not eligible for accommodation.**

With COVID-19 infection rates climbing and the prevalence of the more transmissible Delta variant, the safety of children and families receiving services, staff, and the provider community is paramount. As professionals in direct contact with children and families, we encourage you to continue to learn more about the science supporting the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. For more information about how to locate the COVID-19 vaccine, visit <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov/>.

## Health Care Facilities and Providers

Reference Documents: [Licensed DOH Providers](#), [Governor's Proclamation 21-14](#), [COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Health Care Providers, Workers and Settings](#), [Path Out of the Pandemic: COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

### Vaccine Required

- Health care facilities (hospitals, mental health clinics, Neurodevelopmental Centers) where any services are provided on-site
- Individual health care providers licensed through DOH providing in-person or virtual services
- All staff working for health care providers receiving Medicaid funding through CMS

## School District Settings and Teachers

Reference Documents: [OSPI School FAQ](#), [Governor's Proclamation 21-14](#), [Path Out of the Pandemic: COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

### Vaccine Required

- ESDs
- School districts
- School-based staff
- Individual ESIT staff providing services in schools
- ESIT provider agencies contracting with school districts
- All staff working for schools or ESDs receiving Medicaid funding through CMS

## Child Care and Early Learning Programs

Reference Documents: [DOH FAQ](#), [Governor's Proclamation 21-14](#), [Path Out of the Pandemic: COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

### Vaccine Required

- Individual ESIT providers working with children on-site in child care settings
- Individual ESIT providers working with children on-site in early learning settings (e.g., center-based Early ECEAP, Early Head Start)

## Private Non-Profit Agencies

Reference Documents: [Governor's Proclamation 21-14](#), [Path Out of the Pandemic: COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

### Vaccine Required

- Health care facilities (hospitals, mental health clinics, Neurodevelopmental Centers) where any services are provided on-site
- Individual health care providers licensed through DOH providing in-person or virtual services
- All staff working for service providers receiving Medicaid funding through CMS

If you have questions or need further information, please contact DCYF ESIT Program Administrator, Laurie Thomas, at [laurie.thomas@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:laurie.thomas@dcyf.wa.gov).

Thank you for joining us in this important work on behalf of children and families.