

# How to Connect Your Frontline Essential Workers with a Vaccine

March 2, 2021

First, confirm your employees meet the **Group 3 – Frontline Essential Workers criteria**.

In lieu of a statewide patient registration system, businesses must work with local vaccine providers to secure appointments for their employees. Each county will have a different process, with varying numbers of vaccine providers, **so employers should begin to establish local provider relationships as soon as possible.**

## Various Options Include

1. If employer has an existing relationship with an occupational health provider (who may do flu shot or other onsite clinics), contact them to schedule on-site events.
2. Larger employers should call the local hospital, health department or other provider (find on "**find my shot**" NC DHHS tool) and request on-site vaccinations of employees.
3. Small employers should call a local vaccine provider (find on "**find my shot**" NC DHHS tool) and request a certain number of slots over a few days for their employees.
4. Small employers can also find a list of available providers in the area (find on "**find my shot**" NC DHHS tool) and present them to employees with methods of scheduling (online or via phone.)
5. Depending on proximity to larger vaccine venues, employers can inform employees of certain events when their employees may have time to get a shot. Options may include the Greensboro Coliseum (8-week, 7-day federally run clinic), large metropolitan events such as at Bank of America Stadium or PNC Arena, and upcoming events on UNC campuses, which will all be available in the "**find my shot**" locator as they are scheduled.

## Additional Considerations and Resources

1. The CDC has created an **Essential Workers COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit**, including **sample messaging**, to help employers educate their essential workers about the COVID vaccine.
2. An immune response is common following the second dose so employers should account for a possible 24-to-48-hour window where employees may need to be absent or are less productive.
3. Currently, not all vaccine providers have an online scheduling tool. The state is currently developing a tool that these providers may use, which will be available in 1-2 weeks.
4. At this time, employers cannot upload their employees into the vaccine registration system. NC DHHS is piloting an employer portal with three counties. Providers would have to send an invitation to an employer, who would then upload their employees into the system for future scheduling. Currently, it is showing value when there is a definite vaccine event scheduled. Without a specific event, an employee would simply be sent a list of vaccine providers in their area, after completing an eligibility screening survey. More details will be available in the coming couple of weeks as NC DHHS works to have the portal implemented statewide so employers could call to ask for an access invitation.