

Action for Children



To our AFC community of providers and parents:

With the rise of vaccines, we're in a new, hopeful stage of the pandemic.

Since last May, Action for Children has advocated for child care to be prioritized in state plans for COVID-19 testing and vaccination. So far, child care has not yet been included in the state's vaccine plan. We know state and local public health officials are closely monitoring vaccine supply, and we continue to advocate for the priority inclusion of child care.

We're not vaccine or public health experts, but we know child care and early learning, young children and their families. We've heard you.

Child care providers, [you've told us](#) that you are tired and worried. Successfully implementing enhanced health and safety protocols brings added responsibility. It means working families and their children can rely on child care, but it also means that you are shouldering the burden of higher costs and higher risk. Managing the closing of a classroom or an entire child care program, facing a shortage of staff, worrying about staff safety, and struggling with low enrollment - these are the new realities of child care.

Parents and guardians, we've heard you too. We've listened as you shared your concerns about health and safety throughout the pandemic. Job loss, virtual schooling, and health concerns impact the decisions you make about sending your children to child care programs. A path to pandemic recovery must include prioritizing the safety of child care workers to allow parents to get back to work. As the Bipartisan Policy Center [put it recently](#), "Vaccines for the child care workforce matter to parents."

As the vaccine rollout unfolds, we will continue to stress that child care is essential, and should be prioritized next in the state's vaccine planning. When child care is included in the plan, our field will need to be well-informed and ready to respond to make sure the vaccine rollout is smooth. As we receive more details and information, we will continue to share with you.

For more information, take a look at this [video message](#) from Columbus Public Health Commissioner Dr. Mysheika Roberts answering questions about COVID-19 vaccine safety, efficiency, and common vaccine myths.