



COVID-19 Vaccine Barriers Survey of Oregon's Child Care Workforce

Final Summary of Research Findings

Oregon Early Learning Division

31 Mar 2021



Research Questions

The Early Learning Division (ELD) conducted this research to learn how to best support people in the child care workforce in accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

Two research questions were central to this study:

- 1. What are common barriers preventing people in the child care workforce from getting a COVID-19 vaccine?**
- 2. What can ELD do to help people in the child care workforce get their vaccine?**



Data Collection

The online survey was open from February 16, 2021 to March 8, 2021.

The ELD Research Team designed the survey questions.

It was available in Traditional Chinese, English, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

ELD sent the survey invitation by e-mail, text, and mail to child care workers who were eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and were at least 18 years old.

E-mail: 22,268 Text: 2,775* Mail: 9,899 TOTAL: 34,942 *English & Spanish only

Note: Child care workers did not have an option to mail back a physical copy of the survey, so people with access to technology to take an online survey are overrepresented in these data.



ELD analyzed data from 1,243 child care providers

There were 1,509 total responses.
(4.3% response rate)

ELD analyzed data from providers who answered all of the questions.

The survey sample was roughly representative of Oregon's population in terms of race and ethnicity.

Most providers spoke English (87.1%) and/or Spanish (19.5%).

Race/Ethnicity	#	%
African American or Black	23	1.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	30	2.4%
Asian	58	4.7%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	187	15.1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12	1.0%
Middle Eastern	11	0.9%
White	924	74.8%
Other	11	0.9%
I do not know	5	0.4%
I prefer not to answer	57	4.6%

Note: 1,235 providers (99.4%) selected at least one race/ethnicity. Those who selected multiple races/ethnicities are included in each category they selected.



Providers represented all geographical regions, facility types, and job positions

Providers worked in 34 (94%) of Oregon's counties. Most (81.3%) worked in urban regions.

Most survey respondents worked in certified child care centers (52.9%). Some survey respondents worked in certified family (13.8%), registered family (12.2%), or recorded programs (7.9%), or were friend/family/neighbor providers (3.7%).

Over half of the survey respondents were child care staff (55.2%), and just under one-third were directors or owners of child care programs (30.5%).

Region	#	%
Urban	1,010	81.3%
Rural	157	12.6%
Frontier	34	2.7%



The main barrier is lack of appointments

Two-thirds of providers (66%) did not select any barriers.

This table shows the common barriers selected by providers who chose at least 1 barrier (33%).

Barrier	#	%
There was not an appointment available	137	11.0%
Do not want to get the vaccine	119	9.6%
I'm not sure that it is safe	63	5.1%
Different information from different sources	51	4.1%
Do not know where to get it	44	3.5%
Could not reach anyone to help me	33	2.7%
Online system (e.g., chatbot) was not working	33	2.7%
Do not know if eligible	28	2.3%
Not yet eligible	22	1.8%
Do not know where to find info.	21	1.7%
Tried, but was turned away	13	1.1%
Did not realize each person needed separate appt.	11	0.9%
Information not available in my primary language	*	*

Providers said:

“Getting an [appointment] on the weekend has been difficult...”

“Have to travel far to get it.”

* Indicates there were < 5 respondents



The main support needed is more appointments

Roughly half of the providers (55%) did not select any supports.

This table shows the common supports selected by providers (45%) who chose at least one support from the list.

Support	#	%
More available appts.	295	23.7%
Info. about where to get	244	19.6%
Info. about safety	166	13.4%
Text with info.	144	11.6%
Info. about if eligible	131	10.5%
Help navigating websites	84	6.8%
Phone call with info.	76	6.1%
Info. In mail	74	6.0%
Culturally-specific info.	52	4.2%
Greater internet access	44	3.5%

Providers asked for:

“Appointments closer to my home”

“Better online directions”

“More notice on when [vaccine appointments] will be available”



Barriers differed by geographic region

The most common barrier for providers in frontier and rural regions is not wanting to get the vaccine. The most common barrier for providers in urban areas is not having appointments available to get the vaccine.

Barrier	All	Frontier	Rural	Urban
There was not an appointment available	11.0%	*	8.9%	12.0%
Do not want to get the vaccine	9.6%	17.6%	15.3%	8.2%
I'm not sure that it is safe	5.1%	*	4.5%	4.8%
Different information from different sources	4.1%	*	4.5%	4.2%



Supports differed by geographic region

Providers in frontier regions most want information about vaccine safety, providers in rural regions most want information about where to get the vaccine, and providers in urban regions most want more appointments.

Support	All	Frontier	Rural	Urban
More available appts.	23.7%	*	17.8%	25.9%
Info. about where to get	19.6%	*	18.5%	20.4%
Info. about safety	13.4%	14.7%	10.8%	13.5%
Text with info.	11.6%	NA	14.0%	11.9%



Findings did not differ based on providers' races/ethnicities, languages, or facility types

These analyses yielded results that matched the patterns of findings across all providers.

Race/ethnicity: The most common barrier for Asian, Latinx, and White providers was not having appointments. The two most common supports needed by providers of all races/ethnicities were more appointments and information about where to get the vaccine.

Language: The most common barrier for English- and Spanish-speaking providers was not having appointments. The most common support needed by English- and Spanish-speaking providers was more appointments.

Facility Type: The most common barrier across providers at all facility types was not having appointments. The two most common supports needed by providers at all facility types were more appointments and information about where to get the vaccine.



ELD is using and sharing these findings

ELD shared these findings...

- with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) staff tracking COVID-19 vaccinations
- with Child Care Resource & Referral directors supporting child care providers
- with child care providers and the public on ELD's website and social media

These findings informed...

- COVID-19 vaccine informational materials ELD created for child care providers
- COVID-19 “For Providers” FAQ section of the ELD website