

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

Eric F. Waddell • Superintendent of Schools • ewaddell@kitteryschools.com • (207) 475-1334

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Good morning...

I have been working this morning with officials from York County Emergency Management Agency, Maine CDC, and Maine DOE regarding COVID 19 vaccinations for school staff. Clearly, this is a very fluid situation; what we thought was in place yesterday evening has changed dramatically this morning. Frankly, it could change again before Monday.

I asked the officials from YCEMA this question: **if you were a superintendent of schools, what message about COVID 19 vaccines would you give your staff?** Here's their response:

There are two vaccine sources--Federal and State of Maine--and they come with different rules. The State of Maine vaccines are distributed through sites like York Hospital, Sanford Marshals, Scarborough Downs, etc. Those State of Maine vaccines have Maine residency requirements AND age requirements. In other words, if you are not a Maine resident and 60+ years of age, you are not eligible for the State of Maine-sourced vaccines.

The Federally-sourced vaccines are available at retail pharmacies like Hannaford, Walgreens, Walmart, and Sam's Club. Those vaccines have no residency requirement, and after President Biden's directive earlier this week about vaccinating school staff, school staff of any age may access those Federally-sourced vaccines immediately.

So, here's my message to you. **Don't wait for a school-based vaccine clinic.** Might that still happen? Who knows? If you are 60+ and live in Maine, you should go to any site and sign up for the vaccine. If you're not savvy with this sort of digital platform sign-up, your building is filled with tech savvy friends who I know will help you with the process. Don't be embarrassed. Just ask around!

If you are under the age of 60, you need to get a Federally-sourced vaccine from a retail pharmacy (Hannaford, Walmart, Walgreens, Sam's Club). Their websites are where I would start. Again, ask around your building. Your colleagues can help you find a site and location that can get you vaccinated sooner than later.

Finally, I want to remind you all that you are as safe as you were a week ago. The vaccine 'panic' is a construct that we created. There is no new urgency to get vaccinated. It is no more or no less important today than it was a week ago. Just keep that in mind, and remember that the mitigation efforts that have served us well for the past 12 months continue to serve us well today. Get your vaccine as soon as you can, but in the meantime, continue to keep your distance, wear a mask (or two), and stay home when you don't feel well.

That's the vaccine update for today. Your nurses, your school leaders, and I are here if you need us.

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools