



July 28, 2021

Dear Early Childhood Educators,

On behalf of the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH), I cannot thank you enough for your hard work and dedication to the health and safety of Delaware's children, families, your staff, and communities. Put simply, your partnership has been invaluable and the way many of you reimagined your operations to support remote learning for your children is inspiring.

We look forward to our continued collaboration as we move through this summer and into the next school year. The available COVID-19 vaccines approved for individuals 12 and older provide a high level of protection and are extremely safe in all populations. We hope that you will continue to communicate about the vaccine with your families, such as by sharing [vaccine information located on the DPH website](#), as well as where [families/caregivers can find the vaccine in the community](#).

We also invite early childhood educators to collaborate with us to promote, or hold your own, vaccination clinics for staff and families. The more staff, eligible children, and families we vaccinate, the lower the chances that COVID-19 will spread in our environments and once again disrupt care and learning. Children are at risk for illness *and* hospitalization from COVID-19; and the Delta variant, which is the predominant strain now in Delaware, spreads more easily among unvaccinated persons. Individuals are "fully vaccinated" two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or after one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

DPH also encourages early childhood education settings to continue to promote mitigation strategies including continued mask use and social distancing, and cohorting children, especially with unvaccinated individuals, as well as isolation of positive cases and quarantine for those who have been exposed. DPH also can support your early childhood education setting to implement or coordinate routine testing for students and/or staff at your site. To find out more about routine testing options, please contact Dana Carr ([dana.carr@delaware.gov](mailto:dana.carr@delaware.gov)).

The DPH team is excited to work with you to continue reducing COVID-19 transmission across the state by increasing our vaccination rates and implementing effective mitigation strategies among the staff, and eligible school-aged populations. We are also glad to help answer staff and families' questions through our DPH Vaccine Call Center at [vaccine@delaware.gov](mailto:vaccine@delaware.gov). Thank you again for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Rattay".

Karyl T. Rattay, MD, MS, FAAP  
Director