

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- 1,947,104 people got at least one dose of vaccine and 875,772 people are “fully vaccinated” in Philadelphia, as of August 25th, 2021
- Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at phila.gov/COVID, PDPH [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Latest COVID Vaccine News

- **The Pfizer vaccine is now known as Comirnaty and is fully approved by the FDA for people 16 and older** – More information below.
- **Looking to get tested for COVID-19?** - Testing is FREE at most sites in Philadelphia
- To find the nearest testing site, please see the City of Philadelphia’s COVID-19 testing location finder, *available in six languages*, here: <https://www.phila.gov/covid-testing-sites/?services=>
- **Need transportation to your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment?**
 - **Community-based shuttle services** are available to communities that have accessibility needs. Must schedule two weeks in advance. To schedule a shuttle bus to a vaccination site, email oem@phila.gov.
- **Sport’s Corner – Free Phillies tickets** are being offered at all PDPH Indoor vaccination clinics!!
 - Only two tickets per person, please inquire at the clinic when you arrive.
 - Available on a first come, first served basis. *Get them before they are gone!*
- **COVID-19 Information now available in 11 languages!**
 - Check out the Summer Edition COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter available in Arabic, Bengali, English, French, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese at: <https://hip.phila.gov/Newsletters>
- **New policy for city workers to stay safe from the Delta variant.**
 - All City workers will be required to be fully vaccinated or double-masked if not fully vaccinated. More information here: <https://bit.ly/0901cityVaxPolicy>

FAQ on the FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine

- **What is the big news about the Pfizer vaccine?**
 - The vaccine known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine was given full FDA approval for individuals 16 and older and will now be called Comirnaty (koe-mir’-na-tee).
 - The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.
- **What is FDA approval, and how does something get approved?**
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval means that the FDA has completed its own review of information about safety, production and effectiveness.
 - Compared to an emergency use authorization (EUA), FDA approval requires more information to be reviewed, beyond what was reviewed for the EUA.
 - This involved the review of safety data from tens of thousands of clinical trial participants and “real-world” data from vaccines administered to the public.
 - Full FDA approval means the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine now has the same level of approval as other vaccines regularly used in the U.S., including vaccines for hepatitis, measles, chicken pox, and polio.
- **I heard the Pfizer vaccine has a new name? What is Comirnaty? Why did the name change?**
 - Comirnaty, pronounced (koe-mir’-na-tee), is the new name for the Pfizer vaccine.
 - After a medication receives FDA approval, the manufacturer usually gives it a brand name. Comirnaty is the brand name that Pfizer has chosen for its COVID-19 vaccine.

- The vaccine has not changed, only the name has changed.
- **Why is the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine not yet approved for youth ages 12-15?**
 - Pfizer received EUA authorization in December 2020 for its vaccine for ages 16 and older and received EUA authorization in May 2021 for ages 12 – 15.
 - Pfizer plans to request full approval for ages 12 – 15, once it has collected and analyzed six months of safety data from clinical trial participants.
 - The EUA remains in place for individuals age 12 through 15, and the CDC continues to recommend that all adolescents and adults age 12 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- **What about the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines? If Pfizer is the only one with full approval, does that mean I shouldn't get one of the other vaccines?**
 - For most people, getting the first available COVID vaccine is the best thing you can do to protect your life and the lives of people around you.
 - If you have questions about which vaccine is best for you, please check with your healthcare provider or call 3-1-1. (For interpretation, press #5 and say your language).
 - All 3 COVID-19 vaccines in the United States are considered to be very safe. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will continue to be safely given out under emergency use authorization (EUA).
 - Before receiving EUA, all three vaccines completed clinical trials with tens of thousands of people, and the FDA reviewed data on their safety and effectiveness.
 - All 3 vaccines were found to be safe and effective, and now, hundreds of millions of vaccine doses in the U.S. and billions worldwide have been safely given out.
 - All 3 vaccines are collecting data toward their application for full FDA approval.
 - The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was the first vaccine to receive EUA, which is why it is the first to have enough data to receive full approval.
- **Where to get more information about the COVID-19 vaccines**
 - Find a vaccination clinic nearest you: <https://bit.ly/3jglcAF>
 - Questions on Pfizer and Moderna from PDPH in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, French and Korean available at: <https://bit.ly/2doseFAQ-PDPH>
 - Questions on all 3 vaccines from PDPH at <https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH> (English) and from the CDC at <https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-CDC> (English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and more)
- **How to stay connected**
 - Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 and get updates on your phone and find the latest information at phila.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and [twitter @PHLPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/PHLPublicHealth)
 - Questions or suggestions? Email COVIDVax@phila.gov
 - This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](https://hip.phila.gov/CommunityResponse/CommunityResponse). Sign up at <https://hip.phila.gov/CommunityResponse/CommunityResponse> to get essential public health information, then pass it on to your family, friends, and community.

Be safe!