

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- 1,505,538 people ages 18 and up (95%+) got at least one dose of vaccine.
- 1,209,773 people ages 18 and up (78.9%) are fully vaccinated in Philadelphia, as of February 9th, 2022.
- 89.9% of people ages 12 and up and over 51.3% of children ages 5 – 11 years old have received at least one dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- 380,230 people ages 18 and up (30.6%) have received booster doses.
- Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at phila.gov/COVID or on the Department's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Latest COVID Vaccine News

- Moderna is approved by the FDA.
 - The Moderna vaccine is now approved for use by the FDA and is no longer being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).
 - Moderna will now be advertised as Spikevax (yes, that is the real name), but it is the same vaccine.
 - More information about SpikeVax is available at: <https://bit.ly/SpikeVax>
- Get Free N-95 masks.
 - List of participating pharmacies can be found at: <https://bit.ly/FreeN95>
 - Scroll down the page for a complete list of pharmacies in Philadelphia.
 - Masks come from the federal government's national stockpile.
 - PDPH has no information on how long supplies will last.
- Disability Health Forum video with ASL
 - Includes current topics, FAQs, and more.
 - Current as of November 19, 2021: <https://bit.ly/Nov2021DisabilityHealthForum>
 - Next forum on Monday, 3/7/22 at 11am.
 - Register here <https://bit.ly/Mar7Forum> or contact liam.dougherty@phila.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

- **Where to find a COVID-19 vaccine:**
 - Call 3-1-1 or visit phila.gov/vaccine or vaccines.gov to find a vaccine clinic near you.
 - For interpretation, call 3-1-1, press #5 and say your language.
 - Vaccine is free, no insurance or ID required!
- **Where to find a COVID-19 test:**
 - Visit www.COVIDtests.gov to order your free at-home rapid COVID-19 test kits.
 - Call 3-1-1 or visit phila.gov/testing to find a site near you (available in 6 languages).
 - Testing is FREE at most sites in Philadelphia.
 - Testing event schedule is available here: <https://bit.ly/COVIDtestingevents>
 - **Cibotti Rec Center:** 7700 Elmwood Ave., 19153
 - **Open 7 days a week from 7am-5pm through Thursday, 2/17**
 - PCR testing only, results in 2-3 days
 - Walkups welcome, Language-line phone interpretation available
 - Appointments and test results at: <https://doineedacovid19test.com/> or by calling 1-800-635-8611 (ask for interpretation).
- **Lost Vaccination Card?**

- Ask your healthcare provider first, if they cannot help, call 215-685-5488 or email covid@phila.gov to request a copy of your vaccine record.
- The CDC does not provide copies of COVID-19 vaccination card.
- **Have an upcoming public health event happening in your community?**
 - Send us an email at COVIDVax@phila.gov with a file of your event flyer at least two weeks in advance and we will advertise your event on our social media!
- **The City's Paid Sick Leave law**
 - Covers most full time and part time workers .
 - Requires employers with 10 or more employees to provide up to 40 hours of paid sick leave when you or your family member is sick or for preventative care.
 - This includes:
 - Getting a COVID-19 test.
 - Getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Recovering from any side effects from getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Additional protections if you work on-site at a healthcare organization and are unable to work if you get COVID-19.
 - The City's labor laws protect workers regardless of immigration status.
 - For more information or to file a complaint, contact the Philadelphia Department of Labor at PaidSickLeave@phila.gov or call 215-686-0802. Language access available.

FAQ on WILL COVID EVER END?

- **What is a pandemic?**
 - Viruses or bacteria that cause disease are usually all around us, so all diseases are either endemic, epidemic and occasionally, pandemic.
 - **Endemic** is the amount of a particular disease that is usually present in a community of people, such as the flu. This is the baseline.
 - **Epidemic** is an increase in the number of people with a disease that above what is normally expected, for a certain group of people in a specific location.
 - **Pandemic** is an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people.
- **Will COVID-19 ever go away?**
 - Unfortunately, no. The COVID-19 pandemic should, but the COVID-19 virus will always be with us, just at much lower amounts that do not disrupt daily life.
 - Eventually, COVID-19 will become an endemic disease, just like colds and flus.
 - More information here: <https://bit.ly/CDCfluInfo>
- **When will the pandemic end?**
 - There is no way to know when the COVID-19 pandemic will end. However, the following need to happen across the world for COVID-19 to become endemic:
 - More people vaccinated and boosted, so there are significantly less people getting severely sick with COVID-19 or passing the virus to others.
 - Amount of people hospitalized or die from COVID-19 significantly decreases.
 - Healthcare systems are not overwhelmed.
- **If everyone in Philadelphia gets vaccinated, does that mean the pandemic is over?**
 - Unfortunately, no. The COVID-19 pandemic affects the entire world, so people need to be vaccinated and boosted everywhere before the pandemic can truly be over.
 - Vaccinating everyone in Philadelphia is very important to protect your family, friends and neighbors and to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- The more a virus passes from person to person, the more chances the virus has to mutate (change). Each time a virus mutates, it has the chance to develop new variants (type) of the disease.
- The more people are vaccinated and boosted, the fewer chances of people getting sick and passing the virus to others.
- **What will it be like when COVID-19 becomes endemic?**
 - Eventually there will be less people getting sick with COVID-19 and passing it from person to person. At that point, we will not have to take precautions like wearing masks to keeping our distance from people.
 - Experts think that when COVID-19 becomes endemic, we will have a COVID-19 season along with flu season, with regular vaccines to continue to protect us from both.
 - The same people who are most at risk for getting sick with the flu and COVID-19 will need to take extra precautions to stay safe during this time.
- **Where can I get more information?**
 - CDC information on pandemics vs epidemics: <https://bit.ly/CDCepiIntro>
 - Articles on ending the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - The Lancet: <https://bit.ly/LancetCOVIDend>
 - Johns Hopkins School of Public Health: <https://bit.ly/JHSPHcovidEnd>

More Information

- Get updates on transportation and access and functional needs resources, as well as an up-to-date access description of City-run clinics at <https://bit.ly/KnowB4Ugo>
- The Administration for Community Living has vaccine information for people who are immunocompromised, and the aging and disability networks: <https://bit.ly/ACLcovid>
- **Questions on all 3 vaccines from PDPH:** <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

- **Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline** - 800-722-7112, press #9 for interpretation. Open 24/7!
 - Talk to a medical professional about COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, vaccine, tests, Etc.
- 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)
- This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](https://bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse) Sign up at <https://bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse> to get essential public health information, then pass it on to your family, friends, and community.
- Questions or suggestions? Email us at COVIDVax@phila.gov or leave a message with the Public Health Preparedness Program Outreach Team at 215-429-3016.

Be safe!