

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- 1,527,416 people ages 18 and up (95%) got at least one dose of vaccine and 1,232,999 people ages 18 and up (81.5%) are fully vaccinated in Philadelphia, as of March 1, 2022.
 - 91.1% of people ages 12 and up and 53.6% of children 5 – 11 years old have received at least one dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- 398,874 people ages 18+ (32.1%) have received boosters since August 13, 2021.
- Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at phila.gov/COVID or on the Department's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

The Latest News

- **Current COVID-19 Response Level: Mask Precautions**
 - The Response Levels tie the City's COVID mandates to specific data and numbers.
 - There are four COVID-19 response levels. Each level is connected to how the City's public mandates will be enforced.
 - More information available here: <https://bit.ly/COVIDResponseLevels>
 - All-Clear means:
 - No vaccine requirement for places that serve food or drink.
 - No mask requirement (except in schools, healthcare institutions, congregate settings, and on public transportation where masks are still required).
 - More information available here: <https://bit.ly/0302AllClear>
 - Wearing a mask is still one of the best ways to keep yourself and others protected.
 - Some may still wear a mask when they are in a large crowd.
 - Some may wear a mask because they have a family member who is high-risk, they may be sick and are actually protecting you, and some may just want to be safe.
 - The pandemic is not over.
 - If a new COVID variant were to come to Philadelphia or cases started to rise again, we may need to move to the Mask Precautions Level or higher and start enforcing the public mandates again.
 - This is why it is still important to get your booster dose or get fully vaccinated if you have not already.
- **The COVID Vaccine Incentive Program continues**
 - Eligible residents can get \$100 for getting fully vaccinated
 - Residents are eligible at the time they receive a single dose of J&J or a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna.
 - Go to one of the participating PDPH COVID-19 vaccine clinics and sign up to receive your incentive by email within 1-2 days or by mail within 10 – 14 days.
 - More information at <http://bit.ly/fullyvaccinatedincentive>
 - Information in 12 languages available at <https://bit.ly/HIP-COVID> under Vaccine Information.
- **The Winter 2022 COVID Vaccine Newsletter is available in 13 languages**
 - Essential COVID vaccine information, frequently asked questions and more.
 - Available in Amharic, Arabic, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, Indonesian, Khmer, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese
 - Available at <https://bit.ly/CRPNnewsletter>

- **Free COVID Tests are still available!**

- 5 million tests were available from the CDC, but only about half have been claimed.
- Go to <https://www.covidtests.gov/> to order yours now and save them for when you need a test.

FAQ on Booster Doses

- **What is a booster dose?**

- A booster is an additional dose of vaccine that boosts (improves) your protection.

- **Why do we need a booster? Do we still need a booster if we are in the All-Clear?**

- Yes, being fully vaccinated and boosted protects you from getting severely sick with COVID-19, being hospitalized and from death due to COVID-19 and can help prevent you from passing the virus on to others.
- The pandemic is not over so, if the amount of people getting COVID goes back up or there is another concerning variant, the Department of Public Health may require enforce mandates again.
- The more people who are boosted and fully vaccinated, the less chance there is for the virus to pass from person to person.

- **Do boosters mean that the vaccines don't work?**

- It is expected for some vaccines to lose some strength over time, for example the Tetanus vaccine, and some vaccines are designed to require regular doses, for example the annual Flu vaccine.
- We all need a booster dose to keep up our protection against COVID-19.

- **Aren't enough people vaccinated and isn't this pandemic almost over?**

- Even with so many people vaccinated in Philly, people are still getting COVID, passing it on to others and getting sick or dying from the disease.
 - In February in Philadelphia there were 129 people hospitalized with COVID and 25 people died from the disease.
- A booster will prevent you from getting COVID-19 and can help prevent you from spreading the virus to others.
 - The person you may pass COVID-19 on to may not be able to fight off the virus as well and could end up seriously sick or in the hospital.

- **I already got sick with COVID-19, do I still need to get a booster?**

- Yes, you should get a booster.
- Experts do not yet know how long you are protected from the virus after recovering from being sick with COVID-19.
- You can get COVID-19 more than one time and a booster protects you from getting severely sick, if you do happen to get the virus.

- **Who can get a booster dose?**

- Anyone 12+ who received the 2nd dose of Pfizer at least 5 months ago.
- Anyone 18+ who received the 2nd dose of Moderna at least 5 months ago.
- Anyone 18+ who received the J&J vaccine at least 2 months ago.

- **Can I get a booster dose everywhere COVID-19 vaccine is offered?**

- Yes, booster doses should be available wherever COVID-19 vaccine is offered.

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>
- **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!

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>
- **Disability Health Forum video with ASL:** <https://bit.ly/Nov2021DisabilityHealthForum>
 - Includes current topics, FAQs and more. Current as of November 19, 2021
 - For future disability health announcements, contact liam.dougherty@phila.gov
- **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!