

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- 1,542,007 people ages 18 and up (95%) got at least one dose of vaccine and 1,249,830 people ages 18 and up are fully vaccinated in Philadelphia, as of March 29th, 2022.
 - 93.4% of people ages 12 and up and 35.3% of children 5 – 11 years old have received at least one dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- 421,365 people ages 18+ and up (33%) have received boosters since August 13, 2021. Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at phila.gov/COVID, PDPH [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

The Latest News

- **Stock up on FREE at-home COVID-19 tests**
 - Order two sets of 4 at-home COVID-19 tests for free at COVIDtests.gov
 - More information below.
- **Stock up on FREE N95 masks**
 - Visit <https://bit.ly/FreeN95s> for free masks from the Strategic National Stockpile
- **Register for the In-Home COVID-19 Vaccine Program**
 - COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots for anyone over 12 years old who has had trouble getting their vaccine because of disability, health issues, transportation, language or other barriers.
 - Caregivers & family members in the home are eligible
 - Vaccine is free, no insurance or ID required.
 - To register:
 - Visit: <https://bit.ly/inhomevaccinephl>
 - Call 311 or 215-685-5488 (Press 5 for interpretation services. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.
- **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>

FAQ on At Home COVID Testing

- **Why is it important to test for COVID-19?**
 - The best way to protect those around you from COVID-19 is to not be around other people when you have COVID-19.
 - The only way to know for sure if you have COVID-19 is to get tested.
- **What are the benefits of home testing?**
 - At-home COVID-19 testing gives you and the people you live with the flexibility to get tested at any time, without having to take time away from work or school.
 - If someone wakes up and does not feel 100 percent, you can grab a test you already have on-hand to rule out a COVID-19 infection.
 - You'll know the results in a few minutes as opposed to waiting a few days for a PCR test result to come back.
 - If the test comes back positive, the sick person can stay home and not expose anyone else.
 - Also, testing at home relieves some of the burden from the existing health care community, who can then focus testing resources on those who need them.

- **Is testing at home less accurate?**
 - At-home rapid antigen tests use the same technology as antigen tests used by health care professionals, so they are just as effective in detecting an active COVID-19 infection.
- **How do you use at-home COVID-19 tests?**
 - All at-home COVID-19 tests come with detailed instructions on how to use them and understand the results.
 - The CDC has instructions here: <https://bit.ly/AtHomeTestCDC>
 - The Health Department has videos showing how to use some of the more popular at-home tests:
 - Abbott BinaxNow: <https://bit.ly/PDPHAbbott>
 - FlowFlex: <https://bit.ly/PDPHFlowFlex>
- **Where can you get a COVID-19 home test?**
 - Order two sets of 4 at-home COVID-19 tests for free at [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)
 - Many local neighborhood and online retailers or pharmacies have at-home COVID tests available for purchase.
- **Are test covered by health insurance?**
 - Yes! Health insurance companies are required to either cover the cost of your test at the point of sale or reimburse you.
 - You can get 8 at-home tests per month, for each person enrolled on the plan.
 - Health plans will reimburse up to \$12 per individual test.
- **How do I get my COVID-19 tests reimbursed?**
 - Submit receipts for tests that you've purchased to your health plan, along with any other necessary documentation required by the health plan.
 - The federal government has detailed information here: <https://go.cms.gov/3Lqo0Yk>
- **How can I get home tests if I do not have insurance?**
 - Each household can place 2 orders of 4 free tests, for 8 tests total.
 - Order at: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>
 - Pick up Free tests at a **COVID-19 Resource Hub or distribution event** run by the Health Department: <https://bit.ly/COVIDhomeTest>
 - No insurance or ID is required.
 - Everyone is eligible to receive 1 at-home test kit
 - PDPH staff is available on-site to provide instructions on how to use the test, isolation/quarantine guidance, and answer any questions

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.
 - Sign up for the In-Home COVID vaccine program
 - Visit: <https://bit.ly/inhomevaccinephl>
 - Call 311 or 215-685-5488 (Press 5 for interpretation services. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.)
 - Vaccine is free, no insurance or ID required!
- **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.

MORE INFORMATION

- **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)
- 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 Committee Public Forum – May 2, 2022 at 11am**
 - Register at: <https://bit.ly/0502Forum>
 - Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities invites you to join us for a conversation focused on the intersection of disability and public health.
 - ASL and Closed Captioning will be provided.
 - For additional ADA accommodations please email Claudia.Tasco@phila.gov or call 215-686-2798 by April 22, 2022.
- **Archived 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
- **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!

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](https://www.facebook.com/phillyhealth) and [twitter @PHLPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/PHLPublicHealth)
- This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](#) 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!