

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- In Philadelphia, as of April 4, 2022:
 - 1,543,021 people ages 18 and up (95%) got at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - 1,250,778 people ages 18 and up are fully vaccinated in Philadelphia.
 - 93.5% 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.
 - 422,279 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

- **More Than 5,000 Philadelphians Have Lost Their Lives to COVID-19.**
 - Last week, the Health Department recorded the 5,000th death from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In Philadelphia, the average number of people testing positive for COVID-19 has been slowly rising over the last few weeks.
 - Consider wearing a mask while in indoor public spaces to help lower your chance of getting COVID-19 or spreading it to others.
- **The CDC recommends a second booster dose.**
 - A booster is an additional dose of vaccine that improves (boosts) your protection.
 - Currently, the following groups of people should get a booster dose:
 - First booster doses available for:
 - Anyone 12+ who got a 2nd dose of Pfizer at least 5 months ago.
 - Anyone 18+ who got a 2nd dose of Moderna at least 5 months ago.
 - Anyone 18+ who got the J&J vaccine at least 2 months ago.
 - Second booster doses available for:
 - Anyone 50+ who got their 1st booster at least 4 months ago.
 - Anyone 12+ who is immunocompromised and got a 1st booster at least 4 months ago
 - Booster doses are available anywhere COVID-19 vaccine is offered.
- **Federal funding for COVID testing is ending on April 6, 2022.**
 - **Home testing is recommended because:**
 - You can test any time, without having to take time away from work or school.
 - If the test comes back positive, the sick person can stay home and not expose anyone else.
 - You'll know the results in a few minutes as opposed to waiting a few days for a PCR test result to come back.
 - 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 to get home tests if you 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
- **How to get home tests paid for if you do have insurance:**
 - Health insurance companies are required to reimburse 8 at-home tests per month for each person enrolled in the plan and will reimburse up to \$12 per individual test.
 - Submit receipts for tests that you've purchased to your health plan, along with any other necessary documentation required by the health plan.
 - Detailed information here: <https://go.cms.gov/3Lqo0Yk>
- **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 latest Special Edition COVID Vaccine Newsletter is available in 13 languages!**
 - Essential COVID vaccine information, answers to your 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 the Second Booster Dose:

- **Why is a second booster dose recommended?**
 - A second booster dose gives extra protection to the people who are at an increased risk of getting seriously sick if they get COVID-19.
- **Does this mean the vaccines don't work?**
 - It is expected for some vaccines to lose strength over time, such as the Tetanus vaccine, and some are designed to require regular doses, such as the Flu vaccine.
 - We all need a booster dose to keep up our protection against COVID-19.
- **I already got sick with COVID-19. Do I still need to get a booster?**
 - Yes, you can get COVID-19 more than one time and experts do not yet know how long you are protected from the virus after recovering from being sick with COVID-19.
- **Will boosters be recommended for any other groups? Will a 3rd booster be recommended?**
 - It is possible that other groups of people will become eligible to get a 2nd booster and a 3rd booster may be recommended in the future.
 - Researchers are constantly reviewing data on the COVID vaccines and update their recommendations as needed, to help the public stay as safe and protected as possible.

• Where can I get a vaccine or booster? What if I do not have insurance?

- Boosters are available anywhere COVID-19 vaccine is offered.
- All City health centers and PDPH-run vaccine clinics offer COVID-19 vaccines and boosters free of charge.
 - Visit www.phila.gov/vaccine or call (215) 685-5488 (interpretation available).
- Many private clinics and pharmacies offer vaccine for free to anyone without insurance.
 - Visit www.vaccines.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.
- 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 and [twitter](https://twitter.com)
- This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](#)
 - To view an archive of past newsletters, please visit <https://hip.phila.gov/newsletters/covid-19-vaccine-newsletter/>.



- 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!