

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- **Vaccine**
 - In Philadelphia, as of April 25, 2022:
 - 1,559,575 people ages 18 and up (95%) got at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - 1,262,997 people ages 18 and up (77%) are fully vaccinated.
 - 93.7% of people ages 12 and up and 36% of children 5 – 11 years old have received at least one dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
 - 433,222 people ages 18+ and up (33.9%) have received boosters since August 13, 2021.
- **COVID-19 Cases**
 - In the last 2 weeks, Philadelphia is averaging 168 new cases of COVID-19 per day and 5.1% of COVID-19 tests in Philadelphia have come back positive.
 - PDPH reports 65 patients with COVID-19 are currently being treated in Philadelphia hospitals, with a total of 7 on ventilators.
- Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at phila.gov/COVID, PDPH [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

The Latest News

- **Response levels no longer in use.**
 - On April 22, 2022, Philadelphia dropped the mask mandate.
 - Masks are no longer required indoors, but are still strongly encouraged.
 - More information in the FAQ below and here: <https://bit.ly/PhlMasks0422>
- **PDPH COVID-19 Call Center has interpretation!**
 - Call 215-685-5488 for information on COVID-19 testing, guidance, vaccine and more.
 - Press 2 for Spanish.
 - Press 3 for interpretation in your language.
- **The COVID Prevention and Response Fund**
 - Currently accepting donations to aid nonprofits and individuals that are supporting their community through the pandemic: <https://bit.ly/ActionFund2022>

The Latest Events

- **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!

COVID-19 Resources and Services

- **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.
 - Visit <https://bit.ly/KnowB4Ugo> for updates on transportation, access and functional needs resources, and up-to-date access descriptions of City-run clinics.
- **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.
- **Stock up on FREE N95 masks**
 - Visit <https://bit.ly/FreeN95s> for free masks from the Strategic National Stockpile
- **Stock up on home tests**
 - How to get FREE home tests even 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>
- **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.

FAQ on the End of the Mask Mandate

- **Why did the mask mandate come back and then go away again? Did the mask mandate even do anything?**
 - PDPH uses local data (information) about the pandemic to make decisions about how best to keep people safe. This means that public health officials are expected to change recommendations depending on how the pandemic is going, specifically in Philadelphia.
 - The response levels were designed to act as an early warning system to make sure the most recent rise in people getting COVID-19 in our city did not go up too high.

- The increase in people with COVID-19 and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 only occurred for a short time.
- **When and where is it “strongly recommended” to mask?**
 - Any time you or a family member are going into a place where people are more likely to have health risks.
 - In a small space with multiple people, like a carpool.
 - In a location with multiple people entering and exiting, like a train, bus, or grocery store.
 - Any time you or your family member are around people who are not or cannot be vaccinated, like daycare or preschools.
 - When you or a family member are in an indoor space with many other people that involves physical exertion, like the gym.
- **Why are masks still recommended?**
 - Masks make it harder to get COVID-19 or pass COVID-19 from person to person.
 - This will keep Philadelphia at a low risk level.
- **Why are some businesses still requiring masks? Are they allowed to do that?**
 - Yes, even with no City mandate, all businesses and other institutions are allowed to be stricter than the City’s COVID-19 policies.
 - Some may require proof of vaccination or require that everyone wears a mask.
 - Schools may set their own mask policies.
 - It is strongly encouraged that students and teachers continue to keep each other safe by wearing a mask.
 - Masks will continue to be required in healthcare settings and congregate settings such as nursing homes and shelters.
- **Why are some people still wearing masks when it is not required?**
 - It is strongly encouraged to wear a mask while inside public spaces.
 - Wearing a mask prevents you from passing COVID-19 to others, even if you feel fine.
 - The person next to you may be going through treatment for cancer, they may have a loved one in a nursing home, they may have a new baby at home or a disease that affects their immune system.
 - The person next to you may not be able to fight off the disease, they may get very sick or even die from the COVID-19 virus.
 - Wearing a mask prevents you from getting COVID-19.
 - The person next to you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and doesn’t know it, or they may have COVID-19 but don’t have symptoms.
 - Wearing a mask also shows the people around you that you care about their health as well as your own.

More Information

- Call 215-685-5488 (Press 3 for interpretation. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.)
- **Frequently asked questions on all 3 vaccines:**
 - From PDPH: <https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH> (English)
 - From the CDC: <https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-CDC> (English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and more)

How to Stay Connected

- **Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline**
 - Call 800-722-7112, press #9 for interpretation. **Open 24/7!**
 - Talk to a medical professional about COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, vaccine, tests, Etc.

- **Updates from PDPH**
 - Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 and get updates on your phone
 - Find the latest information at phila.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and [twitter@PHLPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/PHLPublicHealth)
- **Join the Community Response Partner Network**
 - This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](#), part of the PDPH Public Health Preparedness Program.
 - 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
 - Leave a message with the Public Health Preparedness Program Outreach Team at 215-429-3016.

Be safe!