

Philadelphia Weekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest News

- **Job opening: Health Equity Advisor**
 - The Public Health Preparedness Program (PHP) is looking for a Health Equity Advisor.
 - The Health Equity Advisor will:
 - Ensure PHP interventions maintain a focus on equitable access to emergency information and services in priority areas and with priority populations.
 - Advise the Program on diversity, equity and inclusion both as it relates to structural contexts impacting disparity and local dynamics impacting community preparedness and resilience.
 - Develop mechanisms for internal and external evaluation of equity initiatives within the Program and serve on program and division level health justice and racial equity workgroups.
 - Find the full job description at: <https://bit.ly/PHPEquityAdvisor>
 - Applications due by September 9, 2022.
- Free at home COVID-19 tests from the federal government pausing on Friday, September 2.
 - Due to lack of federal funding, this program will be pausing.
 - You can order free test kits now through Friday at: www.covid.gov/tests
- Free COVID Testing Kits Available for Distribution by CBOs
 - PDPH has procured a supply of at-home COVID-19 test kits and will be offering these tests to community-based organizations (CBOs) serving clients and patrons in areas of high COVID-19 risk.
 - Request your free test kits here: <https://bit.ly/CBOtestDistro>
- PDPH Launches the Primary Care Finder: www.phila.gov/primary-care
 - Find free or low-cost medical care in Philadelphia
 - Search by location, type primary care, specialty care or testing services.
 - The goal of this tool is to increase access to free or low-cost primary care services for Philadelphians, especially people who are uninsured or underinsured.
- New CDC guidelines on COVID-19
 - The CDC has updated guidelines on how to stay safe from COVID-19
 - More information available at: <https://bit.ly/PDPHCOVIDUpdateAug2022>
- Text-to-911 now fully operational in Philadelphia
 - Text-to-911 is a service that allows the public to send a text message to 911.
 - Individuals who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and those who face communication barriers may find this service a more accessible means of interface with 911.
 - More information available at: <https://bit.ly/PATextTo911>

COVID-19: Resources and Services

- **Where to find 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.

- Options for COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured residents include:
 - Free vaccine at City health centers and pop-up clinics, for insured and uninsured residents. No ID is required at these locations
 - Other sites, like pharmacies, may bill your insurance company or charge you a direct fee. Call these sites before you go to find out about their policies.
- More information available at: www.phila.gov/vaccine and bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH
- **What to do if you lost your 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.
- **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 3 orders of 4 free tests, for 12 tests total.
 - Order at: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>
 - 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>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on intradermal administration of the monkeypox vaccine

- **Why is PDPH offering the intradermal (ID) vaccine?**
 - PDPH has been giving out the monkeypox vaccine to thousands of Philadelphians who have either been exposed or are likely to be exposed to monkeypox.
 - However, there has not been enough vaccine to give it to everyone who needs it. The supply is extremely limited.
 - Giving the vaccine as an intradermal injection means we can vaccinate 5 times more people. See below for more.
- **What is an intradermal vaccine and how is it different?**
 - Intradermal administration of a vaccine is given at a lower dose (only 20% of the doses we've been giving out so far), and it's injected into the layers of your skin, similar to how you would get a TB or allergy test.
 - We have been giving monkeypox vaccine subcutaneously, which means deeper into your arm, in the fat layer.
 - This is how you receive other vaccines, like the flu shot.
 - Giving the intradermal vaccine lets us get up to five times as many doses out of the vial.
 - This means we can vaccinate up to five times as many people.
- Has this method been tested?
 - Scientific evidence supports the safety and effectiveness of giving this vaccine this way..
 - A 2015 NIH-funded clinical study of the JYNNEOS vaccine compared a lower volume of the vaccine administered intradermally to a larger dose given subcutaneously.

- Results of the study showed that both groups produced similar immune responses to the vaccine.
- Other vaccines can also be given this way when there are shortages.
 - It's been done before for vaccines for Hepatitis B and rabies.
- Other studies comparing intradermal to other administration routes with hepatitis b, rabies, and flu vaccines showed similar immune response with both routes.
 - This means that you have a similar level of protection with both types of vaccine administration.
- Why were ID vaccines not available in the beginning?
 - The Health Department can make this change because of a recent emergency use authorization by the U.S. FDA.
 - Now, after scientific review by the FDA and CDC, it has been determined that it is safe and effective to give a lower dose of the JYNNEOS vaccine intradermally.
- Are there restrictions on who can get vaccinated intradermally?
 - Children under the age of 18 and people prone to keloid scarring cannot get vaccinated this way.
 - Talk to your healthcare provider to see what will be best for you.
- Are there any side effects?
 - The injection site of the intradermal shot has been shown to be a bit redder and itchier, but it's also less painful than with the subcutaneous injection.
 - The bump at the site may also be longer lasting – months as opposed to weeks.
- How can I get either monkeypox vaccine?
 - The amount of vaccine available is extremely limited at this time.
 - Vaccine is still only available by invitation only.
 - If you'd like to talk to someone about whether you are eligible to receive a vaccine, call the Health Department Call Center at 215-685-5488.
- More information available at: <https://bit.ly/PHLmpxID>

Monkeypox Resources and Services

- People who are concerned that they've been exposed, or believe they are at high risk of being exposed to monkeypox, should call the PDPH Call Center at 215-685-5488 to see if they are eligible to be vaccinated.
- Find the latest information on cases and vaccine at: <https://bit.ly/MPXDashboard>
- Updated every Monday.
- Find the latest guidance about monkeypox at: <https://bit.ly/PHLMonkeypoxInfo>
- Find the latest flyers and printable information at: <https://bit.ly/PHPGuidance>
- Find information on precautions to take while you wait for your Monkeypox vaccine at: <https://bit.ly/MPXvaxWait>
- If you would like to receive the weekly Monkeypox newsletter update, email: publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov

More Information

- **PDPH Call Center:**
 - Call 215-685-5488, Press 3 for interpretation in your language, press 2 for Spanish. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.
- **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.
- **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

- **Health and Emergency Updates**
 - Text ReadyPhila to 888-777 and get updates to your phone
 - Find the latest information at phila.gov, [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)
- **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 publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov
 - Leave a message with the Public Health Preparedness Program Outreach Team at 215-429-3016.

Be safe,
Philadelphia Department of Public Health