Philadelphia Weekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest News

- **COVID-19 booster recommended for everyone over 50 years of age**
    - More information in the FAQ below and at: https://bit.ly/50PlusBooster
- **Monkeypox information, public on the PDPH website**
    - This information and more can be found at: **https://bit.ly/MPXDashboard**
    - Visit: **https://bit.ly/PHLMonkeypoxInfo** for the latest on Monkeypox in Philadelphia.
- **Hot weather continues**
    - Get health and emergency updates (including alerts about severe heat).
        - Text ReadyPhila to 888-777 and get updates on your phone.
    - For utility assistance contact:
        - The Utility Services Emergency Fund, Utility Grant Program at 215 814 6837 or visit https://uesfacts.org/
        - BenePhilly at 1-833-373-5868 or visit https://bdtrust.org/benephilly/
    - Visit the Philadelphia Extreme Heat Guide at **phila.gov/heat** for:
        - Information about the health risks of extreme heat.
        - Tools and tips to help you stay cool.
        - Printable flyers and brochures about extreme heat, utility assistance and more.
        - Links to get help paying for utilities, and other resources.
    - View a severe heat workshop at: **https://bit.ly/SevereHeatTraining**
        - ASL interpretation available
    - The Summer 2022 Newsletter is available in 12 languages
        - Available at **https://bit.ly/CRPNnewsletter** in Amharic, Arabic, English, French, Haitian Creole, Indonesian, Khmer, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese.
    - Contact the Public Health Preparedness Program to:
        - Schedule an in-person or virtual workshop on staying safe during extreme heat.
        - Get printed copies of heat flyers and brochures mailed to your organization.
        - Discuss your ideas of how we can support your community to stay safe from excessive heat this summer.
    - Email us at **publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov**
    - Leave us a message at 215-429-3016
- 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**

FAQ on COVID-19 Boosters for People Over 50

- **Should I get a booster now?**
    - Yes! Get any booster available to you to be up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccines.

- **What does being up-to-date mean and why is it important?**
  - Being up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccines means that you have gotten your primary doses and all the booster doses you are eligible for.
  - This gives you the best protection possible against getting COVID-19 or getting seriously sick from COVID-19.
- **What is a booster dose?**
  - A booster is an additional dose of the vaccine that helps your body remember how to fight off a COVID-19 infection if you are exposed to the virus and can help prevent you from getting seriously sick with COVID-19 if you do become infected.
  - Think of a booster dose as practice for your body. You want your body to be prepared and ready if it encounters COVID-19 with the most up to date training.
- **Why should I get a booster dose now?**
  - The COVID-19 vaccines are expected to lose some of their strength over time.
    - For example, for older adults, vaccines are about 90-93% effective against hospitalization from COVID-19 just after your 1st booster, but effectiveness drops to 73-79% after about 6 months.
    - This drop in effectiveness plus variants like Omicron that are more easily spread meads that you need every tool to stay safe.
- **Who is eligible for a booster dose right now?**
  - 1st booster: Everyone ages 5+
  - 2nd booster: Everyone ages 50+ and anyone who is 12+ and is moderately or severely immunocompromised.
  - You can read more and take a shirt quiz to find out if you are eligible here: https://bit.ly/CDCboosterDoses
- **How does protection with the 2nd booster compare to the 1st booster?**
  - If someone is 50+ and has gotten 2 boosters:
    - They are 4 times less likely to die from COVID-related complications than someone who has 1 booster
  - If someone is 50+ and has gotten 1 booster
    - They are 42 times less likely to die from COVID-related complications than people who are not vaccinated.
- **Where can I get more information?**
  - More information available at: https://bit.ly/50PlusBooster or call 215-685-5488

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**

More Information
- **Latest Information from PDPH:**
  - phila.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and twitter@PHLPublicHealth
- **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.
  - Get help making decisions about how to keep you, your loved ones and contacts safe from COVID-19.

How to Stay Connected
- **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,
Philadelphia Department of Public Health