

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- 343,480 total doses and 233,804 partial doses have been administered.
- 109,676 people have been fully vaccinated as of March 4, 2021.
- There are now 128 enrolled provider sites; this is 20 more sites than were available last week.
- Updates with the latest information are available on the [Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#) and the [Weekly Vaccine Distribution Update](#).

Latest Vaccine News

- PDPH has opened a [mass vaccination site at the Pennsylvania Convention Center](#) in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA).
 - This site can vaccinate up to 6,000 people per day, 7 days a week, through April 30, 2021.
 - Only residents in Phase 1A and 1B are eligible.
 - An ID or piece of mail with a Philadelphia address is needed to provide proof of identity and residency. No questions about immigration status should be asked.
 - To get vaccinated fill out the [COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form](#) or call 311 and wait to be contacted for your appointment.
 - The [COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form](#) is available in 5 languages (English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Vietnamese) and 311 has language line available.
 - There are no walk-up appointments at this site. Individuals who show up without a scheduled appointment, and those with an appointment who are ineligible, will be turned away.
- 13,100 doses of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine has arrived in Philadelphia and will be distributed to vaccine providers who have requested doses.

FAQ on the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen Vaccine

- **How is the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine different from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?**
 - The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine uses different technology to provide protection against the COVID-19 virus. This vaccine is a viral vector vaccine; Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines.
 - This vaccine only requires one dose. Pfizer and Moderna require two doses, from the same brand, after a specific amount of time (21 days for Pfizer, 28 days for Moderna).

FAQ on COVID-19 Vaccine Access (continued)

- **How does the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine work?**
 - Viral vector vaccines use a modified or weakened virus (that cannot cause an infection) to deliver important instructions (in the form of a gene) to our cells.
 - The gene teaches your body how to build an immune response to COVID-19 if you are exposed to the COVID-19 virus in the future.
- **Can any of the 3 vaccines change my DNA?**
 - None of the COVID-19 vaccines will interact with your own DNA in anyway because they do not enter the part of the cell (the nucleus) where your own genetic material is stored.
- **Can any of the 3 vaccines give me COVID-19?**
 - None of the COVID-19 vaccines use the live virus that causes COVID-19, so none of the vaccines can give you COVID-19.
- **Can I stop taking precautions after getting vaccinated?**
 - Even after being fully vaccinated, you still need to wear a mask and keep 6 feet of distance from anyone you do not share a home with. This is because it is still possible for you to pass the virus to others, even if you are vaccinated and because no vaccine offers 100% protection.
- **How safe is this vaccine?**
 - The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine was found to be around 93% effective in preventing hospitalization from COVID-19 in clinical trials.
- **Which of the 3 vaccines available is the best? Can I wait until my preferred vaccine brand is offered to me?**
 - While this is a personal decision, we do not recommend waiting for a particular brand. All of the vaccines offer an amount of protection far above the minimum standard.
 - There is still a high risk of community transmission of COVID-19, meaning that the risk of getting the illness, being hospitalized and the risk of death from COVID is still very much a daily concern. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by building immunity without the risk of getting very sick.

How to Stay Connected

- Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 to receive updates to your phone.
- Questions or feedback? Email COVIDVax@phila.gov.
- **Is your community struggling to get information about COVID protection and vaccine?**
 - [Request a presentation or meeting](#) with a PDPH representative.
- This newsletter is distributed to the [Community Response Partner Network](#). Sign up to receive this and other essential information, then pass it on to your family, friends and community.