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 any way 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.