

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers

- Philadelphia passes 1 million doses of COVID vaccine administered! Press release [here](#).
 - 424,666 people have been fully vaccinated and 629,579 people have received at least one dose of vaccine in Philadelphia as of April 14, 2021.
- Updates with the latest information are available on the [Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#) and the [Weekly Vaccine Distribution Update](#).

Latest COVID Vaccine News

- On **Monday, April 19**, every Philadelphian over the age of 16 will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Sign up using our Vaccine Interest Form: <http://phila.gov/vaccineinterest>.
- Walk-up appointments** are available for eligible Philadelphia residents in Phases 1A, 1B and 1C at the Convention Center between 8:00am and 5:00pm **now through Monday, April 26, 2021**.
 - Appointments are available for individuals who have not received a first dose **AND** those who need their second dose of the **Pfizer** vaccine. Moderna is not available at the Convention Center.
 - People who have had allergic reactions after a shot (trouble breathing, wheezing, tongue or lip swelling, or hives) cannot get a vaccine at a Health Department clinic and show talk with their healthcare provider about how to get vaccinated.
- The use of **Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine has been paused**, in response to a [Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

FAQ on the Pause of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

- What happened? Why is the J&J vaccine being paused?**
 - 6.8 million doses of J&J vaccine have been administered in the U.S. and 6 people who received the vaccine developed a rare type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, which requires special treatment.
 - The CDC and FDA are reviewing these 6 cases to see if they may be connected to the J&J vaccine. Until that process is complete, PDPH is recommending a pause in the use of this vaccine out of an abundance of caution.
- How many people in Philadelphia have received the J&J vaccine and how many have had complications?**
 - 20,622 doses of J&J vaccine have been administered in Philadelphia and zero cases of this clotting issue have been identified.
- How does the CDC find out about complications?**
 - Health care providers are asked to report any adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.
- I received a J&J vaccine, should I be worried and what should I do?**
 - People who have received the J&J vaccine, and who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, should immediately contact their health care provider or go to the Emergency Department.
 - Be reassured that you made the right choice to be vaccinated. The possibility of complications from the COVID-19 infection are much higher than the possibility of complications from the J&J vaccine.
- I received a J&J vaccine, how likely is it that I will develop this type of blood clot?**
 - It is extremely rare. You have a greater chance of being struck by lightning than of having any complications from the J&J vaccine.
 - 6.8 million doses of J&J vaccine were given in the U.S. and 6 people developed potential complications. This is a one in a million possibility, which is extremely rare.
- Why is PDPH “pausing” the use of J&J vaccine and not “stopping” its use?**

FAQ on the Pause of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine (continued)

- Because the 6 people who developed blood clots are all women under the age of 50, the CDC and FDA may determine that the J&J vaccine is safe for certain groups of people, after carefully reviewing all the evidence.
- Until the evidence can be reviewed PDPH, all vaccine providers and partner clinics will not provide J&J vaccine until receiving further guidance.
- **Are the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine still safe?**
 - Yes, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use different technology than J&J and should not have this problem.
 - More than 182,000,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna have been administered in the US and surveillance systems have not found any evidence of these types of clotting issues.
 - In Philadelphia, 969,729 doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been administered and no cases of this clotting issue have been identified.
 - The Health Department strongly believes that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine are safe and effective.

How to Get a Vaccine through PDPH

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Forms:** These forms are not for registering for an appointment, but will tell PDPH how to contact you when you are eligible and vaccine is available for you.
 - 1) Individuals can register using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Interest Form](#), available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and French. Individuals who do not have access to the internet can contact Philly311 (dial 3-1-1) for help completing the interest form.
 - 2) Employers are encouraged to complete the [Workforce COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Form](#). Employers that complete this form will be contacted to help set up opportunities to vaccinate their prioritized staff when they are eligible and vaccine is available.
- **Walk-up Wednesdays at 3 Health Department Health Centers**
 - Clinics are open to Philadelphia residents over age 65. Hours are 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and will be able to vaccinate 50 people each per day using the Johnson & Johnson single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Health Center 3 Annex, 4219 Chester Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104
 - Berks Street Annex (Health Center 5), 2001 West Berks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121
 - Health Center 10, East Side Courtyard entrance, 2230 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149

How to Get to Your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment

- Vaccine sites are accessible by SEPTA public transit. [This web-based map](#) shows all transit routes to City-run community vaccine clinics and this [static map](#) shows frequent routes to the sites.
- SEPTA continues to promote safe and healthy travel during the pandemic. Masks are required, and employee-ambassadors will reinforce this mandate and give out free masks as part of the Mask Force Philly program.
- For more information about using public transit to get to a community clinic, see [this flyer about transportation options](#).

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.