

Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Weekly COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter: Week ending 8.9.2021

The Latest Numbers

- 1,901,184 people got at least one dose of vaccine and 856,356 people are “fully vaccinated” in Philadelphia, as of August 11th, 2021
- Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at phila.gov/COVID, PDPH Facebook and Twitter

Latest COVID Vaccine News

- **Philadelphia’s new masking requirements begin on Thursday, August 12.**
 - More information below and at <https://bit.ly/0812mask4delta>
- **New policy for city workers to stay safe from the Delta variant.**
 - All City workers will be required to be fully vaccinated or double-masked if not fully vaccinated. More information here: <https://bit.ly/0901cityVaxPolicy>
- **COVID-19 Information now available in 11 languages!**
 - Check out the Summer Edition COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter available in Arabic, Bengali, English, French, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese at: <https://hip.phila.gov/Newsletters>
- **Need transportation to your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment?**
 - Seniors ride FREE and reduced transit fare for people with access and functional needs under age 65.
 - Seniors can ride free by scanning a PA driver's license or ID card issued before July 2017 on **all SEPTA vehicles**, or by registering for a **Senior Ride Free Card**.
 - To register or for more information, call 215-580-7145 and press #6.
 - Call center hours are Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Free Phillies Tickets** – Phillies tickets are being offered at all PDPH indoor vaccination clinics!
 - Only two tickets per person, please inquire at the clinic when you arrive.
 - Available on a first come, first served basis. *Get them before they are gone!*
- **Lost Vaccination Card?**
 - Philadelphia residents who have lost their COVID-19 vaccination card or who cannot obtain a copy of their record from their provider can call 215-685-5488 or email covid@phila.gov for instructions on how to request a copy of their immunization record.
- **Federal COVID-19 vaccine incentives, giveaways and discounts** - vaccines.gov/incentives.html

FAQ on the new masking requirements

- **Why did the Department of Public Health change the mask requirements?**
 - The new mask requirements were changed because we are seeing more people get COVID-19 in Philadelphia, caused by the Delta variant.
 - The Delta variant is more contagious and has been spreading quickly, especially in areas without enough people vaccinated. Some areas of the country are seeing the highest numbers of cases and hospitalizations of the entire pandemic.
 - This may be the most dangerous time in some parts of the United States, especially for people who are not vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - While the situation isn’t quite as bad in Philadelphia, cases of COVID-19 are rising in Philadelphia, especially in younger adults.
 - The last time we saw the number of new cases going up, the Health Department took action to help slow the spread. This worked before, so we are doing it again.

- **What are the new mask requirements?**
 - Businesses and Institutions
 - Businesses and Institutions that do not require everyone who enters to be vaccinated:
 - Everyone must wear a mask at all times.
 - Businesses and Institutions that require everyone who enters to be vaccinated:
 - Masks are encouraged but are not required.
 - Indoor Dining:
 - Restaurants that do not require proof you have been vaccinated:
 - Everyone must wear a mask when not seated and eating or drinking.
 - Restaurants that require proof you have been vaccinated:
 - Masks are encouraged but are not required.
 - Non-seated outdoor events:
 - Masks will be required at all non-seated outdoor events in Philadelphia with more than 1,000 attendees.
- **Why do I have to wear a mask if I am fully vaccinated? Does that mean the vaccines don't work?**
 - Wearing a mask protects you from the rare possibility that you can get COVID-19 even if you are vaccinated and protects you from spreading COVID-19 to other people even if you feel fine.
 - No vaccine is 100% effective and all of the COVID-19 vaccines are excellent at protecting you from getting COVID-19 or passing it on to others.
 - Because COVID-19 variants, such as the Delta variant, developed after the vaccines were already made, research is still in process about how well these vaccines protect against variants like Delta.
 - So far, the vaccines are doing an excellent job, but more variants may develop.
 - Until enough people are vaccinated, the COVID-19 virus will spread. Every time the virus spreads it can change, which makes it possible for new variants to develop. It is expected that viruses will continue to change as they spread.
 - Getting a vaccine is still the best way to stay safe from the virus and protect other people, including children and people who cannot be vaccinated.
- **The Delta variant sounds scary; what else can I do to stay safe?**
 - In addition to the new masking recommendations, the Health Department recommends that everyone in Philadelphia:
 - Choose outdoor rather than indoor spaces.
 - Avoid crowded indoor spaces.
 - Mask while indoors around people you don't know are vaccinated.
 - For unvaccinated people, consider double masking while inside indoor public spaces.
- **I still have questions about masking, where can I get more information?**
 - It's important you make the best choice for you.
 - If you still have questions, please visit <https://bit.ly/0812mask4delta>, phila.gov/COVID, call the health department at 215-685-5488 or speak with your doctor.
- **Where to get more information about the COVID-19 vaccines**
 - Questions on Pfizer and Moderna from PDPH in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, French and Korean available at: <https://bit.ly/2doseFAQ-PDPH>
 - Questions on all 3 vaccines from PDPH at <https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-PDPH> (English) and from the CDC at <https://bit.ly/COVIDvaxFAQ-CDC> (English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and more)
- **How to stay connected**
 - Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 and get updates on your phone and find the latest information at phila.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and [twitter @PHLPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/PHLPublicHealth)
 - Questions or suggestions? Email COVIDVax@phila.gov



- This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](https://hip.phila.gov/CommunityResponse/CommunityResponse) Sign up at <https://hip.phila.gov/EmergencyResponse/CommunityResponse> to get essential public health information, then pass it on to your family, friends, and community.

Be safe!