

# Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter

## Philadelphia Department of Public Health

### The Latest Numbers

1,062,863 people got at least one dose of vaccine and 869,156 people are “fully vaccinated” in Philadelphia, as of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at [phila.gov/COVID](https://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.
- **Sport’s Corner – Free 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](mailto: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](https://vaccines.gov/incentives.html)

### FAQ on 3rd doses of the COVID vaccine

- **I heard I can get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the COVID vaccine? Should I get one?**
  - The CDC recommends people who are immunocompromised get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose if they got Pfizer or Moderna.
  - This is because people who are immunocompromised have a weaker immune system, and after two doses of the vaccine, the level of protection from the COVID-19 virus was still low. In some cases so low, the level of protection could not be measured.
  - People with normal immune systems are NOT recommended to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose at this time. This is because research is showing the vaccines work really well in people with normal immune systems.
  - If you are immunocompromised or take a medication that affects your immune system, please speak with your healthcare provider to determine if you should get a third dose of the vaccine.

- **Doesn't another shot mean extra protection?**
  - All of the vaccines provide excellent protection against severe illness from the COVID virus.
  - Researchers found that after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) people with normal immune systems show very strong protection against the COVID vaccine. So, another shot is not necessary and is not recommended at this time.
- **Is a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose the same as a booster?**
  - No, a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose is recommended only for people with weakened immune systems.
  - A booster dose is given when the strength of the vaccine becomes too little to provide enough protection.
    - A booster may also be a different amount of vaccine than the original 2 doses.
- **Is everyone who has a weakened immune system recommended to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose?**
  - No, the CDC only recommends people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose:
  - People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have:
    - Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
    - Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
    - Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
    - Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
    - Advanced or untreated HIV infection
    - Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
    - People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.
- **I am immunocompromised and on the list of recommended conditions, what should I know?**
  - If you got an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) the CDC recommends you get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose at least 4 weeks (28 days) after your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.
    - You must get the same type of vaccine for all 3 doses
  - Vaccine clinics are not requiring a doctor's note or documentation that you are immunocompromised.
  - If you received a J&J vaccine you are not yet eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna).
- **Where can I find more information?**
  - Visit the CDC directly at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>
- **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](https://phila.gov/COVID), [facebook.com/phillyhealth](https://facebook.com/phillyhealth) and [twitter @PHLPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/PHLPublicHealth)
  - Questions or suggestions? Email [COVIDVax@phila.gov](mailto:COVIDVax@phila.gov)
  - This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](https://hip.phila.gov/EmergencyResponse/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!