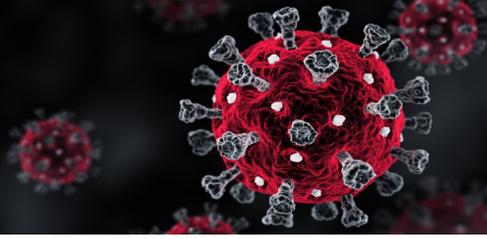


# Vax Matters



Dec. 10-17, 2021



## News

### CDC Recommends Pfizer Boosters for 16-17 Year-Olds

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Thursday recommended the expansion of Pfizer booster doses to 16- and 17-year-olds at least six months following their initial Pfizer vaccination series.

At this time, only the Pfizer vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents aged 16 and 17. All adult are eligible for any booster dose.

### New Jersey Readies Third Vaccination Mega-Site

Two mega-sites are currently open in Gloucester and Burlington counties, offering all vaccines, including the Pfizer pediatric vaccine for children ages 5 through 11, as well as boosters.

A third site is expected to officially open soon in Somerset County.

Appointments are not required, and walk-ins are welcome at the [Gloucester County Public Works Complex](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1168/COVID-19-Vaccinations) at 1200 N. Delsea Drive in Clayton. Visit [www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1168/COVID-19-Vaccinations](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1168/COVID-19-Vaccinations) for hours of operation and additional information.

The [Burlington County Vaccination Mega-Site](#) is located in a former A.C. Moore store on Nixon Road in Mount Laurel as part of the East Gate Square Shopping Center.

To schedule an appointment, visit [www.virtua.org/services/mega-site-faqs](http://www.virtua.org/services/mega-site-faqs). Limited walk-up vaccinations are available Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The mega-sites are among the more than 2,000 vaccination sites across the state.

Last January, New Jersey opened six regional mega-sites as vaccinations rolled out across the state. The sites closed over the summer.

Mega-sites have reopened to accommodate booster doses, younger age groups and additional vaccinations.

## State To Mark COVID-19 Vaccination Anniversary With Boost NJ Day

Next Wednesday, December 15, commemorates the anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccination in New Jersey.

The vaccine was administered to University Hospital Emergency Department nurse Maritza Beniquez amid applause and hopes for the future.

What began with one vaccine has expanded to three safe and effective vaccines with over 14.3 million total doses administered in New Jersey, and the expansion of COVID-19 vaccination to children ages 5 and older. Now, booster doses are available for all three vaccines to help further protect residents and bolster immunity.

“The best way we can celebrate this milestone is by getting our boosters,” Governor Murphy said.

To commemorate New Jersey’s vaccination journey, the state has planned a special booster push on December 15, designating it as *Boost NJ Day*. All vaccination sites have been invited to host special events, including offering walk-in availability.

Pfizer booster doses are available for those ages 16 and older at least six months after completion of their primary Pfizer series. Moderna recipients age 18+ are also eligible six months after completing their primary series, while Johnson & Johnson vaccine recipients age 18+ are eligible at least two months after a one-dose vaccine.

“Today, we are still in the midst of one variant – Delta – while another, Omicron, threatens our state. Since Thanksgiving, we have seen cases and hospitalizations continue to rise due to the holidays, increased travel and the variants,” said Health Commissioner Persichilli. Yet, only just over 35 percent of New Jersey’s more than 4.5 million residents eligible for booster shots have gotten one.

“We are not where we need to be in further protecting our residents,” Commissioner Persichilli said.

The state has over 2,000 vaccination sites, including local and chain pharmacies, schools, pediatrician and physician offices, local health departments, large county and mega-sites and more. Throughout the past year, NJDOH has worked with community and interfaith partners and schools to set-up hundreds of pop-up and mobile vaccination clinics. To date, the state’s Vaccine Call Center has helped schedule nearly 142,000 appointments and agents have answered nearly two million calls.

As the state marks the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 vaccinations, if you are not vaccinated yet, protect yourself, your family and community against COVID and its variants, particularly during the busy holiday season of gathering and traveling. If you are eligible for a booster, get one today to further strengthen your protection against the virus.



Governor Phil Murphy getting his booster shot at Monmouth Medical Center.



### Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 14.3M+ total doses administered
- ◆ 6.2M+ fully vaccinated people



***Behind the Scenes...*** Commissioner Persichilli and Chief of Staff Andrea Martinez-Mejia join special guests to film upcoming advertisements encouraging COVID-19 boosters and vaccinations for 5 through 11 year-olds.



***NJDOH COVID-19 resource page: multilingual flyers, infographics and more to download and share.***