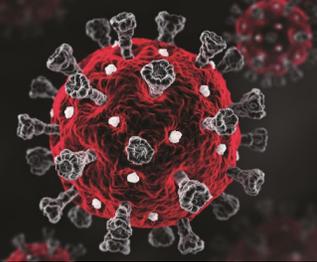


Vax Matters



January 15, 2021

News

Measures Expand Ranks of Those Who Can Vaccinate

An Executive Directive signed by New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith Persichilli expands the eligibility of healthcare workers who can administer COVID-19 vaccinations during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

The Executive Directive allows for physicians, physician assistants, dentists, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others as well as other healthcare providers-in-training to provide COVID-19 vaccinations.

In addition, four New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs Administrative Orders (2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-03, 2021-04) expand the pool of vaccinators not only for COVID-19 vaccinations, but also routine vaccinations such as influenza and childhood vaccines.

Additionally, New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) reporting must be conducted regularly as required by NJDOH, FDA, and/or CDC.

Monoclonal Therapy and Eligibility

Monoclonal therapies, which have received Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as an early stage treatment option for COVID-19, are being used by many hospitals.

If you've tested positive for the virus through a COVID-19 test, contact your healthcare provider or nearest hospital or medical facility to see if you are eligible for the treatment. Click for more information on eligibility, monoclonal antibody treatment; and understanding COVID-19 treatment options.

Eligibility Expands for N.J. COVID-19 Vaccinations

Two new categories have joined the ranks of those eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine: Individuals 65 and older and people between the ages of 16-64 with certain medical conditions.

The new groups join paid and unpaid healthcare workers in Phase 1A, which also includes residents and staff of long-term care facilities, and sworn law enforcement and fire professionals in an initial stage of Phase 1B, as those currently eligible for vaccination.

For the age 16-64 group, certain medical conditions, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that increase the risk of severe illness from the virus include cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, Down Syndrome, heart conditions, obesity, sickle cell disease, smoking, and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Pregnant women and individuals in an immunocompromised state due to organ transplant are also eligible but should follow CDC guidance and first discuss vaccination with their medical provider.

“We know that individuals in these categories are at greater risk for severe COVID-19 illness and death,” said NJDOH Commissioner Judith Persichilli.

Vaccine supplies are limited, and appointments are required. For more information about statewide vaccination site locations and to preregister for a vaccination visit covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.

As of January 14, 2021, the following groups are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine: PREPARED: ON JAN 13, 2021

- ✓ Paid or unpaid persons working or volunteering in a healthcare setting
- ✓ Residents of long-term care facilities and other congregate settings
- ✓ Frontline first responders
- ✓ Persons aged 65 and older
- ✓ Persons aged 16 to 64 years old who have at least one chronic medical condition that poses high-risk for severe COVID-19:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions (e.g. heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies)
- Immunocompromised (weakened immune system) due to organ transplant (consult with your doctor)
- Obesity (e.g. body mass index of 30kg/m² or higher)
- Pregnancy (consult with your doctor)
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

These groups can start making vaccination appointments. More groups will become eligible in the coming weeks.

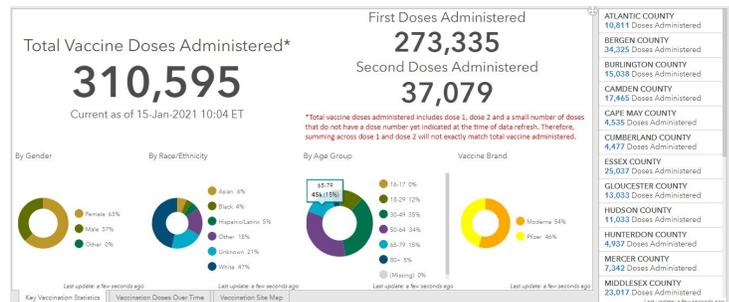
For a list of open vaccination sites nearest to you and register for a COVID-19 vaccine visit covid19.nj.gov/vaccine

Vaccine Dashboard Charts Statewide Vaccination Progress

New Jersey has launched a vaccine dashboard which will provide daily updates on doses administered.

The data, featured on the New Jersey COVID-19 Dashboard, also notes first doses and second doses, and the split between Pfizer and Moderna.

The dashboard includes a breakdown of vaccine administrations by county, age group, gender and race/ethnicity as well as a map of vaccination sites.



Four State-Supported Megasites Now Open with Debut of Edison and Moorestown

Two more state-supported megasites opened this week – one in Edison and the other in Moorestown – with the final two sites expected to open by next week.

Governor Murphy and NJDOH Commissioner Persichilli visited the newly opened New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center in Edison on Friday, which is a partnership with RWJ Barnabas Health. Another site at Moorestown Mall, a collaboration with Virtua Health, also opened Friday.

“When more vaccine becomes available in the coming weeks and months, the state’s megasites will serve as vaccination hubs as we continue to expand capacity,” said Commissioner Persichilli.

To date, four of the state’s six megasites have opened.

Earlier in the week, Governor Murphy and the Commissioner were joined by Senate President Stephen Sweeney in a tour of the Gloucester County megasite located at Rowan College of South Jersey in Sewell. Registration at this site is available on the New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System (NJVSS).

Another site in a former store in Rockaway Townsquare in Morris County opened last week.

The last two sites will be at the Atlantic City Convention Center and the Meadowlands Complex in East Rutherford.



Richard Satyavan gets his vaccination Friday at the megasite in Edison.

The sites are currently vaccinating healthcare workers in Phase 1A; sworn law enforcement and fire professionals who are the first group in Phase 1B to be included; individuals age 65 and over; and those age 16-64 with certain medical conditions.

So far over 1.5 million individuals have pre-registered on NJVSS.

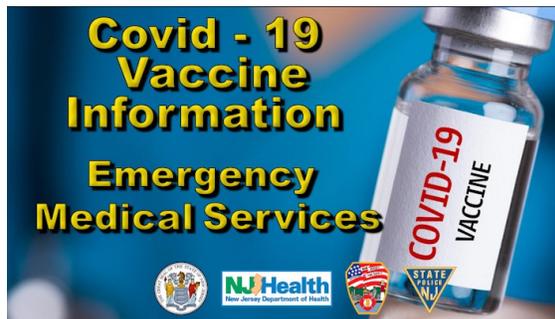
Those currently eligible who have registered will be notified by email to set up appointments; others who have registered will be notified when they become eligible to be vaccinated.

Frontline First Responder Videos Available on COVID-19 Vaccine

As the COVID-19 vaccine program continues to expand in New Jersey, frontline first responders are now eligible to take the vaccine.

Frontline first responders include paid and unpaid sworn law enforcement, fire and rescue services, and search and rescue organizations. The nature of their work puts them at risk through the many, and often close, interactions they have with others daily.

During a listening session held with leadership from various first responder communities, it became evident that like many others, first responders have questions about the vaccine. To address these concerns, three informational videos were created targeting emergency medical services, fire services and law enforcement communities. Each



video contains information about the vaccine, its benefits, as well as an endorsement from respected leaders within each of the professions represented.

The videos are being shared with members of the first responder community via social media and are posted on NJDOH’s [COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#).

Resources

[Volunteer with the N.J. Medical Reserve Corps](#)

[COVID-19 Information Hub Vaccine Page](#)

[NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#)

[New Jersey COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#)

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