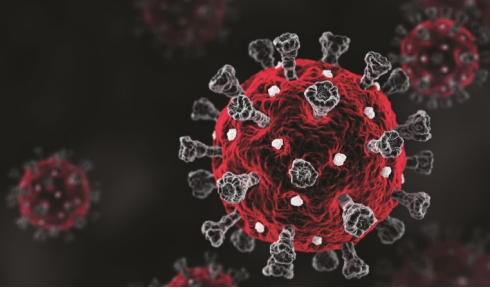


Vax Matters



January 29, 2021



News

N.J. 211 Survey Shows Increased COVID Vaccine Acceptance

Public willingness to get vaccinated is growing, according to a recent pulse survey of [New Jersey 211](#) callers.

The survey, conducted January 17-23, questioned 2,712 callers to NJ 211, a statewide information and referral service.

Asked about COVID-19 vaccines, 78% said they would be likely to get vaccinated, compared to 10% who said no, 7% who were unsure and 5% who refused to answer.

In an earlier survey conducted November 18-21, 972 callers were asked if they would be in favor of getting vaccinated when it became available.

Forty-four percent responded yes at that time, while 28% responded no, 18% were unsure and 10% refused to answer.

NJDOH Chief of Staff Joins Telemundo Town Hall, Panel

NJDOH Chief of Staff Andrea Martinez-Mejia joined [Noticiero 47 Telemundo](#) this week in a digital town hall and later participated in a television panel discussion in Spanish with healthcare professionals about the vaccination process and its challenges as well as the safety of and access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

****NEW****

[Employee Communications Digital Resource Toolkit for New Jersey Long-Term Care & Home Healthcare Providers](#)

NJDOH Reinforces Second Dose Appointment Scheduling

Once individuals get their first vaccine dose, they are expected to receive an appointment at the same location for the second dose.

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is working with sites to ensure that they make this happen.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are two-dose regimens.

"We know that many residents are concerned about ensuring that they will receive the second dose of their vaccine," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "We are reinforcing with all sites that they should be making second appointments when the individual receives the first dose."

Individuals should get their second dose as close to the recommended date as possible (21 days for Pfizer and 28 days for Moderna).

I got my first dose, how do I ensure I get my second?

- For those who received their first vaccination dose through an appointment made via the [New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System \(NJVSS\)](#), your second dose appointment has been automatically scheduled and you will receive an email confirmation on this within the next several days.
- Those who booked their first dose appointments directly with a [vaccine clinic](#) that does not schedule through NJVSS should have received a second dose appointment at the time of their first dose administration. If not, contact that site to schedule the second dose.
- If you received your first dose at the Gloucester County Megasite before NJVSS was available, you will be contacted directly by the site to schedule a second appointment.

By the end of the weekend, if you had your first dose already and are still unsure about how you will get your second dose appointment, contact the New Jersey Vaccine Call Center at 855-568-0545 for assistance.

"We want everyone to receive both doses of vaccine in order to have maximum protection against the virus," Commissioner Persichilli said.

As of Friday, 724,371 total doses have been administered, including 110,698 people who have completed both doses.



Governor Murphy, NJDOH Commissioner Persichilli, Congressmen Albio Sires and Bill Pascrell Jr., and Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise visit the USS Juneau Center, Office of Emergency Management, drive-thru vaccination site in Kearny on Tuesday.

New Jersey Vaccine Call Center Assisting Callers with Vaccination Process

Nearly 400,000 callers have contacted the New Jersey Vaccine Call Center since it formally launched on January 25.

The call center – available at 855-568-0545 – is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

Call center agents can provide information on frequently asked questions and vaccine eligibility, assist with registering on the New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System (NJVSS), help with editing registration information and appointments, and identify local vaccination sites.

The call center operates virtually to comply with safe social distancing measures and has more than 300 trained staff with plans to add additional agents to meet call volumes. The call center is staffed with a mix of English and Spanish-speaking agents and is able to communicate with callers in more than 240 languages.

The state continues to have a tremendous imbalance between demand and supply of vaccine. There are limited appointments at this time.

Due to vaccine scarcity, callers are not guaranteed an appointment but can pre-register for the future. As supply increases and more appointments become available in NJVSS, the call center will be able to assist callers in making appointments through NJVSS.

Appointment slots will increase as more vaccine becomes available for distribution in New Jersey.

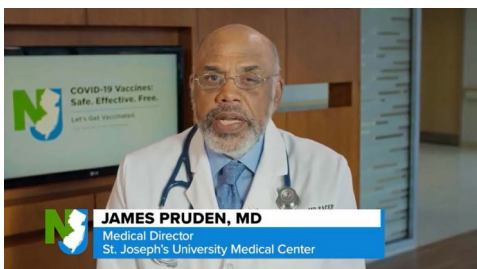


First Lady Tammy Murphy watches as AtlantiCare nurse Eileen Xu administers a vaccine Tuesday at the Atlantic City Convention Center megasite. Pool photo/Edward Lea/The Press of Atlantic City.

The call center is also exploring registration and scheduling at the five megasites that have individual registration systems and do not participate in NJVSS. Appointments at the Gloucester County megasite are through NJVSS.

People can continue to register through the NJVSS system, and also check with other community-based vaccination sites that are not participating in NJVSS listed at covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.

Videos Help Drive Messaging for Healthcare Workers on Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines



Videos from doctors and nurses speaking to their peers and patients on the issues of vaccine safety and hesitancy are a key part of the state's vaccine public awareness campaign.

Janine Llamzon, RN, Director of Nursing at St. Joseph's University Medical Center, recorded [her video](#) in English and Tagalog.

"It is important for us in the healthcare community to get the vaccine," she says in the video. "Why? Because it is our responsibility to our patients."

Dr. James Pruden, Medical Director at St. Joseph's University Medical Center, explains that he barely survived COVID-19.

"Yes, we must continue to practice safety precautions like distancing and wearing masks but the vaccine has brought us more hope than we have known for months," Dr. Pruden urges in the [video](#). "Get valid information from reliable resources and get the vaccine. We can do this together."

Dr. Amesika Nyaku, Infectious Disease specialist with Rutgers Health, addresses concerns within communities of color about the COVID-19 vaccines.

"We are here, we are fighting for you, to help stop the disproportionate burden that our communities are suffering because of the pandemic," Dr. Nyaku says in the [video](#).

The videos have been featured on social media and on closed circuit television in physician and hospital offices, and shared with related stakeholder groups. Many are also featured on the [NJDOH YouTube channel](#).

Additional videos are being finalized or in production as part of the effort, which will also feature other healthcare workers.

The state's outreach efforts also include videos targeted to sworn law enforcement, fire professionals and EMTs, which can be found on the department's YouTube channel.

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