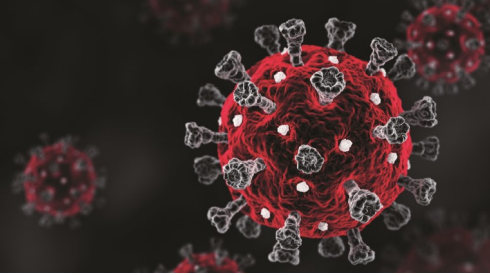


Vax Matters



February 12, 2021



News

NJDOH Commissioner Joins Vaccine Equity Roundtable

Governor Murphy, joined by N.J. Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith Persichilli, held a virtual roundtable on Tuesday on vaccine safety and access in New Jersey's Black community.

Also participating: Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver; the Rev. Melvin E. Wilson; AFSCME International Vice President Debbie Parks; and Dr. David Kountz, Co-Chief Academic Officer and Vice President for Academic Diversity for Hackensack Meridian Health.

Q&A With Dr. Eddy Bresnitz

Dr. Eddy Bresnitz, NJDOH Medical Advisor and Professional Advisory Committee Chair, addressed topics such as vaccinations for children, equitable access and vaccine availability in NJ Spotlight News.

Last month, Dr. Bresnitz participated in an NJ Spotlight News virtual roundtable, and the questions were drawn from queries submitted by audience members before and during the online event. [Read more.](#)

FQHCs To Be Focus of Additional Vaccines

The Biden Administration this week announced the launch of a phased program to provide additional vaccines targeted directly to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

Although no New Jersey centers were selected for the first phase, we look forward to the state benefiting from this program as it progresses.

Partnership with CVS, Rite Aid Expands Vaccinations

A new federal pharmacy partnership with Rite Aid and CVS is bringing additional vaccines to New Jersey communities.

Under the partnership, both pharmacies have begun receiving direct shipments of over 27,000 vaccine doses available by appointment for those currently eligible in New Jersey at 102 stores.

CVS received 19,900 doses and Rite Aid 7,500 doses through a direct allocation from the federal government without tapping into the state's supply.

Visit [CVS.com](https://www.cvs.com) for location/appointment information; for Rite Aid, visit [riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier](https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier). The pharmacies join a statewide network of megasites and community-based vaccination sites.

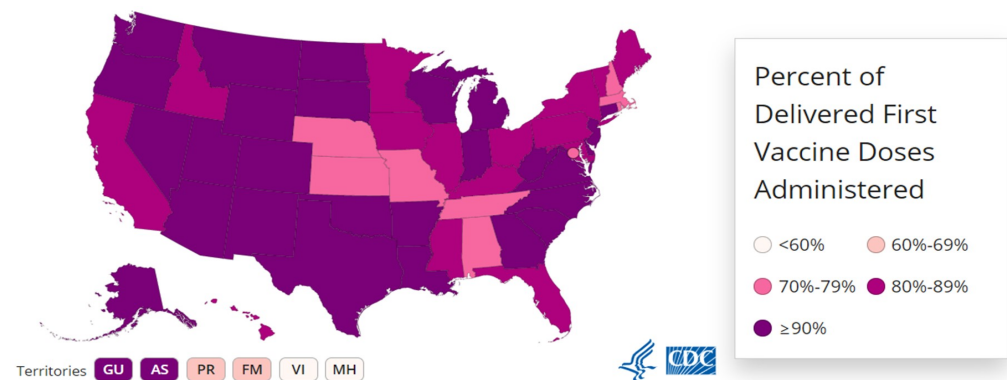


Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop, NJDOH Commissioner Persichilli and Governor Murphy visit the Mary McLeod Bethune Life Center community vaccination site Wednesday.

As of Monday, the state has now administered over 1 million COVID vaccination doses. As of Friday, 1,244,224 total vaccinations have been administered, including 933,160 first doses. The state is also expecting increasing quantities in the weeks ahead of vaccines from the federal government for the six megasites and other vaccination centers.

Previously, NJDOH partnered with Rite Aid to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to home care and hospice staff. A current federal pharmacy partnership with CVS and Walgreens is vaccinating residents and staff of long-term care facilities.

CDC: Percent of Delivered First Vaccine Doses Administered by U.S. States and Territories



More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/distributing/first-doses.html>

Virtual Town Hall Addresses Vaccine Concerns Expressed By Communities of Color

A virtual town hall led by New Jersey medical professionals to address facts, fears and myths about COVID-19 vaccines for Black and Caribbean communities debuted Thursday evening and drew hundreds of live viewers.

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Kemi Alli, CEO, Henry J. Austin Health Center in Trenton, and featured: Dr. Chris T. Pernel, Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer at University Hospital in Newark; Dr. Amesika Nyaku, Infectious Disease, Rutgers Health in Newark; and Dr. Harold LaRoche, an Emergency Room staff physician with JFK Medical in Edison and Chapter President of Haitian Physicians Abroad.

Questions focused on issues such as vaccine safety, hesitancy, the role of primary doctors in addressing mistrust, and the vaccine and fertility. The town hall can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/D4Us6H4WbCI>.

A second town hall on Feb. 15 will provide information targeted to Latinx communities. The meeting will be in English, and a Spanish language version is set for later this month.

This discussion will be led by Amanda Medina-Forrester,



Executive Director of NJDOH's Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, and will feature: Dr. Marcella Perez, board-certified family medicine physician at Zufall Health Center, Morristown; Gina Miranda-Diaz, an ANCC board-certified advanced public health nurse; and Luis Espina, MD, a board-certified family practice provider with RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group.

To register, visit: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/565691448483659789>.



Governor Murphy, N.J. Rep. Tom Malinowski, Commissioner Persichilli and others watch as Kimberly Foreman, RN, Director of Quality and Patient Services, vaccinates nurse Christine Cook at the Matheny Medical and Educational Center in Peapack-Gladstone on Tuesday.

(Pool photo/Chris Pedota/NorthJersey.com/USA Today Network)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are the two different vaccines interchangeable?

The COVID-19 vaccines are not interchangeable with each other or with other COVID-19 vaccine products. The safety and efficacy of a mixed product series has not been evaluated. Both doses of the series should be completed with the same product.

If I get vaccinated, do I still need to wear a mask or face covering?

Yes, you will still need to wear a mask and follow all safeguarding methods until enough individuals are vaccinated to produce community protection. We know that the vaccine keeps you from getting sick, but we don't know yet if the vaccine prevents a person from contracting the virus and then spreading it.

Resources

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

[Community-Based Vaccination Sites](#)

[NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#)

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

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