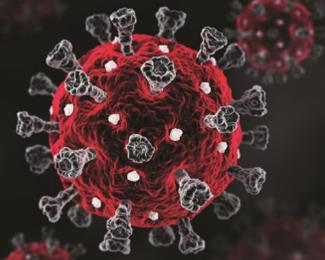


# Vax Matters



March 19, 2021



## News

### Vaccinations at Community Partnership Sites Top 24,000

Sites in Newark and Pleasantville will open next under the community-based vaccination partnership, which is aimed at increasing availability of COVID-19 vaccines to underserved communities.

Sites in Camden and Jersey City wrap up their two-week program this week as second dose booster shots began at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset. Booster shots are set to begin next week in Elizabeth, and vaccinations will continue for a second week in Vineland and Orange.

Over 24,600 total doses have been administered overall at the partnership sites as of Friday morning. The 10 community-based sites – Somerset, Trenton, Elizabeth, Paterson, Vineland, Camden, Jersey City, Orange, Newark and Pleasantville – are expected to vaccinate about 34,000 people.

Appointments are required and are scheduled directly through partnering houses of worship, community organizations and local community leaders for members of the immediate community.

### Drs. Bresnitz, Fisher Join Town Halls

Dr. Eddy Bresnitz, NJDOH Medical Advisor, participated in a telephone town hall with Rep. Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11) and local officials about the American Rescue Plan on Tuesday. Dr. Bresnitz discussed vaccine distribution in the state. [Listen to it here.](#)

Dr. Meg Fisher, Special Advisor to Commissioner Persichilli, was among the guests for an online discussion on students returning to school sponsored by the Trenton Branch NAACP. Dr. Fisher shared information on the vaccines currently available and her work as a pediatrician. [Watch it here.](#)

### NJDOH Outreach Efforts To Stakeholders Near 20,000

In one of the New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) largest vaccine outreach efforts to stakeholders and community leaders, Commissioner Judith Persichilli participated in a tele-call town hall with the state's AARP Thursday with over 5,000 members.

Dr. Meg Fisher, Special Advisor to the Commissioner, also participated in the call on New Jersey's vaccination rollout.



Commissioner Persichilli and Dr. Fisher join the AARP call.

"During this time when demand far exceeds the available supply of vaccine, we are working to ensure that those most at risk of COVID-19 infection, those at risk of more severe illness or death—including those 65 and older, or those in underserved populations who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic be among the first to be offered the vaccine," Commissioner Persichilli said.

To date, NJDOH's weekly outreach, which began this fall to help build public confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines, has reached 18,985 people and 120 groups. In addition to the Commissioner, Dr. Fisher, Dr. David Adinaro, Deputy Commissioner, Public Health Services, and Dr. Eddy Bresnitz, Medical Advisor to NJDOH on the COVID-19 response and Chair of the Professional Advisory Committee, have also participated in these efforts.

Other groups have included essential employee leaders, education leaders, interfaith-based organizations, pharmacies, elected officials, disabilities advocates, immigrant advocates, labor unions, healthcare associations, counties and local health departments, law enforcement and first responders.

### Targeted Vaccines for Individuals 65 and Older

NJDOH has a special focus on vaccinating those 65 and older. The New Jersey Vaccine Call Center is currently scheduling vaccinations at select Walmart stores in South Jersey for residents 65+. Through a special senior call line – **856-249-7007** – representatives will help with appointment scheduling at these Walmarts. To schedule an appointment at all other Walmart or Sam's Club stores, those 65+ should call their local store directly (list of stores: <https://www.walmart.com/store/directory/nj>) or call the senior hotline after March 29 as additional stores will be added.

Appointment availability and scheduling varies by location, and patience is urged as supply remains limited.

### Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 3.3M+ total vaccine doses administered
- ◆ 2.1M+ first doses administered
- ◆ 1.1M+ people fully vaccinated



## Vaccines Open For Transit, Airport Workers As Eligibility Expands

State officials marked the start of expanded vaccine eligibility this week with the vaccinations of Newark Liberty International Airport workers, NJ Transit workers and other groups.

Governor Murphy and Health Commissioner Persichilli were joined by Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo and 32BJ SEIU State Director Kevin Brown at the Donald M. Payne, Sr. School of Technology in Newark on Tuesday for vaccinations of airport employees.

On Friday, the Governor, Commissioner and other officials visited the NJ Transit General Office Building in Maplewood, where vaccinations were underway for agency workers.

"How did it feel?" the Governor asked one NJ Transit worker who was vaccinated. "Nothing to it," came the reply.

Additional groups will become eligible on March 29, including food production, agriculture and food distribution; postal and shipping services; warehousing and logistics; eldercare and support, among others.



An airport employee, above, and an NJ Transit worker receive vaccinations.



## The following groups are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine:



- ✓ Age 16-64 with Certain Medical Conditions
- ✓ Age 65+
- ✓ Child Care Workers in Licensed & Registered Settings
- ✓ First Responders
- ✓ Health Care Workers
- ✓ Individuals Experiencing Homelessness & Those Living in Shelters
- ✓ Members of Tribal Communities
- ✓ Migrant Farm Workers
- ✓ Pre-K to 12 Educators & Support Staff
- ✓ Public Safety Workers
- ✓ Residents & Staff of High-Risk Congregate Care Facilities
- ✓ Residents & Staff of Long-Term Care Facilities
- ✓ Transportation Workers

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, view full details on eligibility, and to register for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment, visit [covid19.nj.gov/vaccine](https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccine)



### FAQ: Vaccine Access for Teachers, School Staff and Childcare Workers

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program is prioritizing the vaccination of teachers, school staff and childcare workers during the month of March.

#### Who is eligible for vaccination?

Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade teachers; licensed childcare centers and family childcare providers; Head Start and Early Head Start; and pre-k through 12th grade classroom aides, bus drivers, janitors, coun-

selors, administration staff and cafeteria workers.

#### Are substitute teachers eligible for vaccination under this directive?

Yes.

#### Where can members of the education and childcare sectors get vaccinated? Learn more:

[How to Get Vaccinated Fact Sheet](#)

See also: [Additional Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### Resources

NJ Vaccine Call Center:  
1-855-568-0545

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

[Community-Based Vaccination Sites](#)

[NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#)

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