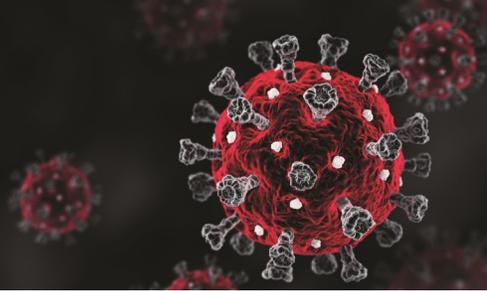


# Vax Matters



March 26, 2021



## News

### Vaccine Call Center Connecting With Residents

The New Jersey Vaccine Call Center, which connects residents with agents and provides automated information to frequently asked questions, has received over 1.6 million calls to date to **855-568-0545** as well as the **senior hotline (65+)** at **856-249-7007**.

Call center agents have answered over 482,000 calls, registered over 42,000 people in the New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System and also scheduled 21,000 appointments.

The call center has also responded to some 300,000 emails addressing issues such as registration problems, changes to a previous registration or confirming registration.

### Two More Vaccine Partnership Sites Opening

More than 35,000 total COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered at the state's community-based vaccination partnership sites.

Next week, sites in Newark and Pleasantville will open for two weeks to begin administering first doses.

In Newark, Jehovah Jireh Praise and Worship on South 15th Street will be the vaccination site for the first week. In Pleasantville, Epiphany Lutheran Church on Franklin Boulevard will serve as the site for the first week.

The 10 partnership sites are located in Somerset, Trenton, Elizabeth, Paterson, Vineland, Camden, Jersey City, Orange, Newark and Pleasantville.

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

### FEMA Community Vaccination Center To Open in Newark

In partnership with the Biden Administration, Governor Murphy on Friday announced the planned opening of a pilot Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Vaccination Center located at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

The site will have the capacity to vaccinate 6,000 individuals per day, seven days a week.

Supported by the federal government in partnership with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), Essex County, and City of Newark, the center will target vulnerable communities based on the federal Centers for Disease Prevention and Control's Social Vulnerability Index.

"Ensuring vaccine equity by reaching deep into communities with higher risks of virus exposure and infection is among our highest priorities," Governor Murphy said.

Vaccines will be provided directly from the federal government, above and beyond the state's regular allocations. The vaccination center, located in NJIT's Naimoli Family Athletic and Recreational Facility, has a soft opening Monday and will formally open March 31. Appointments are required.

### Eligibility To Expand For Additional Groups

Governor Murphy also announced expanded vaccination eligibility for more frontline essential workers and high-risk groups beginning April 5.

Groups will include: individuals ages 55-64; individuals age 16+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities; higher education educators and staff; communications infrastructure support and press; real estate, building, and home service workers; retail financial institution workers; sanitation workers; laundry service workers; utility workers; and librarians and support staff.

"New Jersey's phased vaccine rollout continues to prioritize preventing severe illness and death and supporting essential societal functioning," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli.

Additional groups are already set to become eligible on March 29, including food production, agriculture and food distribution; postal and shipping services; warehousing and logistics, among others.



Governor Murphy made the announcements during a visit to Kean University's vaccination site on Friday.

### Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 3.7M+ total vaccine doses administered
- ◆ 2.5M+ people with at least one vaccine dose
- ◆ 1.3M+ fully vaccinated people



## Federal Partnership with Long-Term Care Residents, Staff Enters Second Phase

As part of the second phase of the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, two group purchasing organizations with affiliates in New Jersey – Managed Health Care Associates and Innovatix – will receive COVID-19 vaccine through the program to distribute to their member long-term care pharmacies.

New Jersey has worked closely with CDC to ensure at least 700 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine are available in the first week of this effort.

This initiative will provide direct access to the vaccine for staff and residents of long-term care facilities who were not vaccinated during their three on-site clinics as well as newly admitted residents and new staff.

In addition, long-term care staff and residents are eligible statewide and can access vaccines on their own anywhere with appointments in the state.

“Vaccination among residents of long-term care facilities is high, however only about half of long-term care staff have chosen to get vaccinated,” said Commissioner Persichilli. “We have provided webinars, videos and materials in multiple languages, but a new outreach effort is underway to offer education and vaccination.”

Some 270,855 doses of vaccine have been administered to residents and staff in long-term care facilities and other congregate settings — including HUD 202 senior housing — as part of the federal pharmacy partnership.



*Esther Moodey, a nurse at Roosevelt Care Center, Old Bridge, was N.J.'s first long-term care staff member to receive the vaccine.*

The state included as many high-risk congregate settings into that partnership as possible.

**Also this week, NJDOH adopted federal guidance for visitation in long-term care facilities.** The department also released a [holiday visitation guidance reminder memo](#).

The new guidance allows for indoor visitation at all times regardless of the vaccination status of the resident or visitor—except for a few circumstances where visitation should be limited due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission.

### *NJDOH Podcast Series Discusses Vaccines for 65+, Vaccine Rollout*

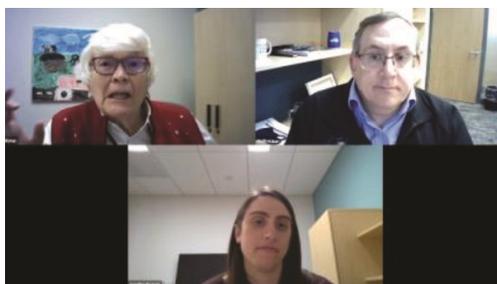
Two new installments of *Saving Lives in New Jersey: The COVID-19 Vaccine and You*, NJDOH's video podcast series, are now available.

The series is hosted by Dr. Meg Fisher, a pediatric infectious disease consultant and special advisor to Health Commissioner Persichilli.

In one podcast, Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, discusses vaccinations for those age 65 and over. [Listen here](#).

In a second podcast, Dr. David Adinaro, NJDOH Deputy Commissioner, Public Health Services, and NJDOH Policy Advisor Jennifer Fearon discuss New Jersey's vaccination rollout. [Listen here](#).

Please help to share these podcasts with your network. Two other podcasts in the



series are available on [NJDOH's YouTube Channel](#).

### Resources

- ◆ NJ Vaccine Call Center: 1-855-568-0545
- ◆ [Teachers, School Staff, and Childcare Workers: How to Get Vaccinated](#)
- ◆ [COVID-19 Faith-Based Toolkit](#)
- ◆ [NJ Transit VAXRIDE](#)
- ◆ [COVID-19 Information Hub Vaccine Page](#)
- ◆ [Community-Based Vaccination Sites](#)

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