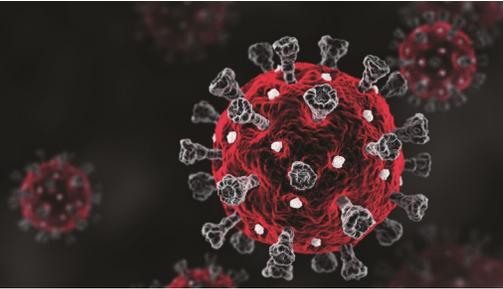


Vax Matters



April 16, 2021



News

Eligibility To Open For All 16+

All individuals ages 16 and older will become eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination beginning on Monday, April 19.

To date, New Jersey's phased vaccination rollout has successfully administered 5.8 million doses to those previously eligible, with 2.3 million people already fully vaccinated.

For more information on the nearly 800 statewide vaccination site locations or to preregister for scheduling a vaccination appointment, please visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccine>.

For assistance with registering in the state's scheduling system, contact the Call Center at 1-855-568-0545.

Upcoming Virtual Vaccine Events

A new COVID-19 Community Calendar highlights live, virtual community events discussing COVID-19 vaccination in New Jersey. Visit the page to find events that will address your questions and concerns surrounding vaccination. Organizations can submit events on the page which will be reviewed by NJDOH and added: [See Community Calendar](#).

More Financial Help Through Get Covered New Jersey

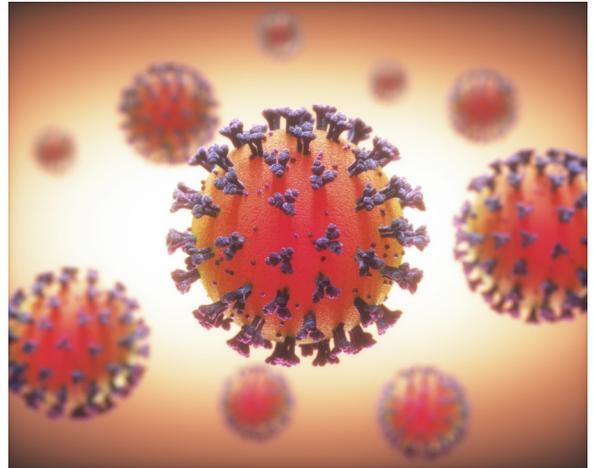
Additional financial assistance is available for healthcare policies purchased through Get Covered NJ, the state's official health insurance marketplace.

The additional funding is provided under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. More information: getcovered.nj.gov.

Pause on J&J Vaccine Continues Pending Further Review

The pause on the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine remains in effect as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) prepares to meet again April 23 for further review.

ACIP, which provides guidance to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), met Wednesday following a recommendation by the CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to pause the use of the J&J vaccine out of an abundance of caution upon reviewing data involving six U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. Both agencies said that these adverse events are extremely rare.



Following that recommendation, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) also suspended the administration of the J&J vaccine across all vaccination sites. NJDOH is encouraging residents to keep their vaccine appointments for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which have been demonstrated to be safe and effective and use different technology than the method used for the J&J vaccine. While understanding that concerns about J&J may increase hesitancy, it is vital that as many people as possible get vaccinated to beat COVID-19 in New Jersey where we have lost one in 500 New Jerseyans to this virus.

NJDOH has requested that all vaccinators develop alternate plans for those affected by the pause. Most sites get a mix of vaccine types, so many were able to switch to either Pfizer or Moderna and have begun rescheduling those who were to get the J&J vaccine. The Department also reached out to sites that only have J&J doses to provide assistance, including options to schedule appointments at other sites.

NJDOH's Office of Local Health has offered assistance to local health officials, and many are working to accommodate individuals who were scheduled for J&J. However, because of its ease of storage and one-dose convenience, J&J was being used for some hard to serve populations.

The Department recognizes the challenges the pause has created and is committed to working alongside these partners to continue to advocate for vaccine supply for the state's vulnerable and hard to serve populations.

NJDOH is talking with partners serving these populations and looking at which sites may be able to accommodate Moderna vaccine. Although it would be more complex to administer a two-dose vaccine for certain populations, if the Department needs to go forward with a two-dose vaccine, it will work to do so because of the state's commitment to equitable access to vaccination.

Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 5.8M+ total vaccine doses administered
- ◆ 3.6M+ people with at least one vaccine dose
- ◆ 2.3M+ people fully vaccinated

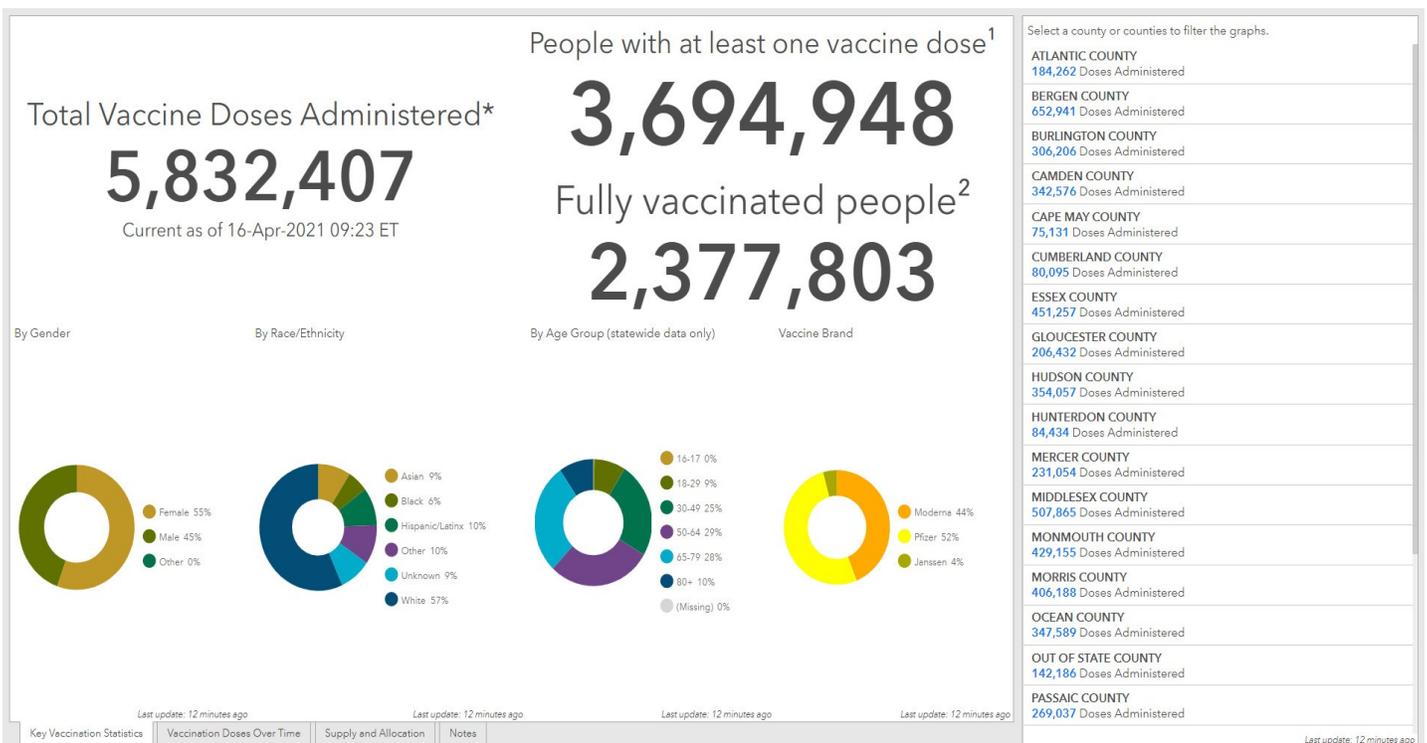


Commissioner Takes To the Airwaves in Vaccination Ad

If you are channel-surfing on local TV, cable or streaming TV, you may likely catch Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli in a new ad talking about the importance of getting vaccinated and her vaccination journey.

The ads are part of NJDOH's vaccination public awareness campaign and are appearing on broadcast TV, including ABC, NBC, CBS, Univision, Telemundo, Fox and more; local cable channels throughout the state; satellite networks like DISH and DirecTV; streaming services and Hulu; social and YouTube. View the TV ad at <https://youtu.be/X9ic3IYbtpM>

Public awareness campaign ads are also featuring other medical professionals, among them, NJDOH Special Advisor Dr. Meg Fisher, University Hospital President and CEO Dr. Shereef Elnahal, and University Hospital Emergency Department nurse Maritza Beniquez, who was the first person vaccinated in New Jersey. Radio ads also have begun running.



Register for Upcoming Virtual Town Halls on COVID Vaccines

There is still time to register for two free virtual town halls that are aimed at addressing facts, fears and myths related to the COVID-19 vaccines.

Saving Lives with the COVID-19 Vaccine in NJ Asian-American Communities takes place from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. April 20. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/39EjPYt>.

Moderated by Janine Llamzon, a nurse with St. Joseph's University Medical Center in Paterson, the panel will feature Dr. Hafeza Shaikh, Cherry Hill Free Clinic and cofounder of CommUNITY SJP, and Dr. Naveen Merothra, pediatrician and adjunct

faculty member, Rutgers – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

A second town hall, for the general public, will be moderated by Dr. Meg Fisher, special advisor to Commissioner Persichilli, on April 27, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The town hall will also feature Dr. Hafeza Shaikh, as well as Dr. Irini Daskalaki, a pediatric infectious disease physician, medical epidemiologist and Medical Lead, COVID-19 Response, Princeton University Health Services; and Dr. Tamara Green, a board certified emergency medicine physician. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/3rRLrPX>.

Resources

- ◆ NJ Vaccination Call Center: 1-855-568-0545
- ◆ [COVID-19: 5 Reasons to Get Vaccinated](#)
- ◆ [COVID-19 Information Hub Vaccine Page](#)
- ◆ [Community-Based Vaccination Sites](#)

[Sign up for Vax Matters](#)