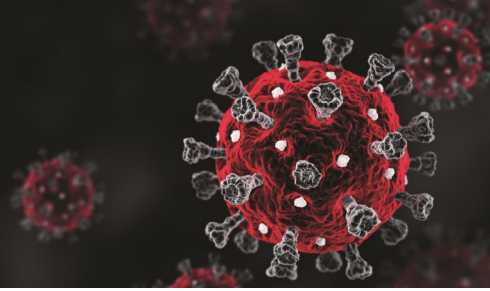


Vax Matters



April 30, 2021



News

Mega-sites Open for Walk-Ins

All six mega-sites are now offering walk-in vaccinations. Appointments are not needed, and you do not need to be a resident of the county the site is located in. For site information, visit covid19.nj.gov/finder.

WALK-IN VACCINATIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL NEW JERSEYANS AGE 16+ AT ALL SIX VACCINE MEGA-SITES AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

ATLANTIC CITY: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	GLOUCESTER: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
BERGEN: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	MIDDLESEX: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
BURLINGTON: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	MORRIS: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

covid19.nj.gov/vaccine

J&J Vaccines Resume; Push On For Pfizer, Moderna 2nd Doses

Vaccination sites in New Jersey that had Johnson & Johnson vaccine inventory have resumed administration of the vaccine as new orders for the vaccine were submitted by the state as part of next week's allocation.

Following a thorough safety review, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommended that the pause in the vaccine's administration be lifted.

The FDA determined that the available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals age 18+.

NJDOH also is working to ensure individuals return for their second doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines to complete their series. So far, 91% of individuals who received their first dose also received their second. Over time, this improves to 93% beyond six weeks.

The New Jersey Vaccine Call Center, 855-568-0545, is also conducting outreach to remind recipients to get their second dose.

NJDOH Enlists Colleges/Universities To Help Boost Student Vaccination

With several New Jersey colleges and universities requiring on-campus students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 for the fall semester, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is making a push to help get their students, faculty and staff vaccinated before summer break.



Vaccinations continue in sites statewide such as a ShopRite Pharmacy in Toms River recently. (Photo: Governor's Office)

With vaccine and appointment availability, NJDOH, working closely with the state Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, has reached out to the state's college and universities, enlisting their assistance in helping to inform and activate their students.

The State is supporting multiple pathways to ensure students, faculty and staff can schedule vaccines, including at mega-sites, which have proximity to many schools.

"As schools determine vaccine plans for their campuses, the Department will work with schools to determine if they would like to host a vaccination site on campus or will help them identify specific times and opportunities at the mega-sites or other community sites for their campuses to be vaccinated," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli during a call with colleges and universities on Friday.

This spring, New Jersey's colleges and universities had an estimated nearly 358,000 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students.

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Mega-sites Equipped to Meet Special Needs

New Jersey's six vaccination mega-sites are designed to meet the needs of all residents, and therapy dogs, quiet rooms and other measures are helping to make the process more comfortable.

All of the sites are ADA compliant and have wheelchairs available.

All have sensory rooms/quiet rooms to make the process less overwhelming for persons with disabilities who may be more sensitive to noise, light and crowds.

Some sites also have used golf carts to transport individuals as well as have therapy dogs onsite.

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Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 6.9M+ total vaccine doses administered
- ◆ 4.2M+ people with at least one vaccine dose
- ◆ 3M+ fully vaccinated people



Vaccination Outreach Ongoing for Long-Term Care Staff, Residents

With CVS and Walgreens recently completing their last rounds of vaccination clinics in 1,193 facilities through the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care, the goal in the next phase of the program continues to be increasing rates among long-term care staff.

The companies completed three and sometimes four clinics in each facility to vaccinate residents and staff.

NJDOH ensured that as many facilities as possible participated in the program, including nursing homes and veterans homes, assisted living residences, federal Housing and Urban Development senior housing, developmental centers, and homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Long-term care facilities are now in next phase to ensure access to vaccines for new residents and staff, as well as staff who may have been hesitant in the past.

Long-term care facilities have pharmacies they work with routinely, and three group purchasing organizations (MHA, Innovatix and Omnicare) are supplying those pharmacies with vaccines.

Through this program, 5,165 vaccines have been administered since March.

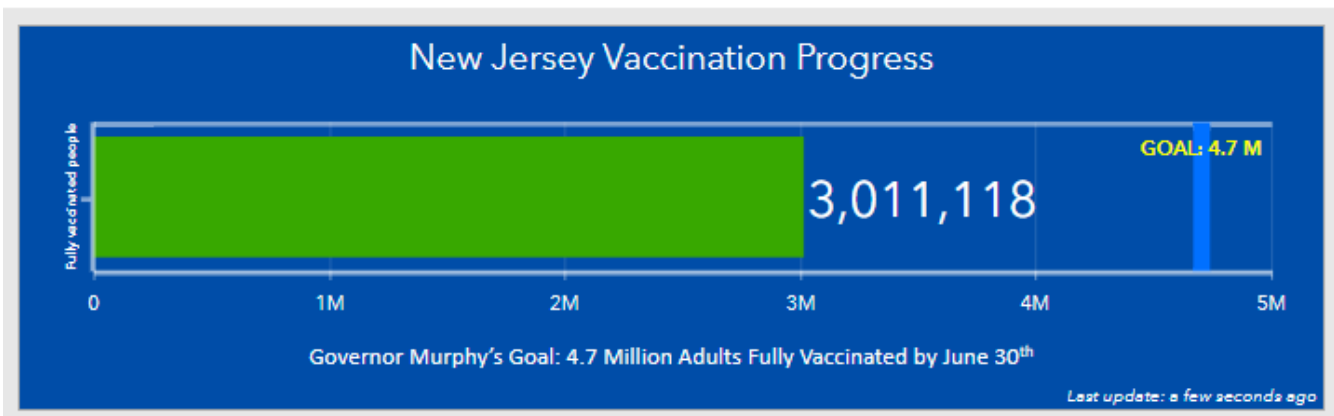
Vaccination percentage data by facility is posted on NJDOH's long-term care landing page at www.nj.gov/health/ltc/.



Esther Moodey, a nurse at Roosevelt Care Center in Old Bridge, was the first staff person of a long-term care facility in the state to be vaccinated.

“I encourage individuals with loved ones in these facilities to look at this data and ask administrators how they are working to increase vaccine levels at their facilities,” said Health Commissioner Persichilli. “To protect long-term care residents, vaccination of nursing home residents and staff is essential to reduce the risk for symptomatic COVID-19, as is continued focus on infection prevention and control practices.”

She noted during a press briefing this week, that while there has been progress, only around 56% of long-term care and assisted living staff are vaccinated, in contrast to 84% of residents of long-term care facilities.



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To date, Princeton University, Rutgers University, Drew University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, New Jersey City University, Rider University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Fairleigh Dickinson University and Montclair State University have all set vaccination mandates for the fall semester.

Appointments can be found at the NJ vaccine finder covid19.nj.gov/finder, through the New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System or through the N.J. Vaccine

Call Center at 855-568-0545.

With over 3 million individuals fully vaccinated, the state is approaching its goal of vaccinating 70 percent of the adult population – 4.7 million people – by the end of June.

Additional outreach efforts to ensure that everyone who wants a vaccine gets one are to be announced.

The push is part of the state's strategy to address softening attendance at vaccination sites, which is an emerging national trend.

Resources

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

[COVID-19 Vaccine Finder](#)

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

[NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#)

New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps Members Awarded in National Recognition

Several members and teams of the New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – which includes about 1,000 volunteers working weekly as part of the pandemic response – have received national recognition.

Under the direction of local health agencies throughout the state, these MRC volunteers are currently deployed each week to assist with COVID-19 vaccination, testing, contact tracing and other response activities.

Several MRC members were honored last week by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and cited by Governor Murphy during a press briefing.

Created in 2005, the state’s MRC is a network of 24 community-based, locally organized units comprised of both health professionals and non-clinical community health members.

New Jersey MRC Members Honored

Among the honorees was Ella Shaykevich of Perth Amboy, a nurse for over 35 years with extensive public health and emergency preparedness experience at the local and county levels, who received the Medical Reserve Corps Mentor Award.



Ella Shaykevich

The Middlesex County MRC, which operates under Unit Coordinator Richard Kozub, Lori Karabinchak and John Dowd, was recognized with the national award for Community Response for their efforts with COVID-19 testing.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also



Some of Middlesex County’s MRC team members.

recognized the following NJ MRC members and teams:

- Honorable Mentions – Community Response (COVID-19 Vaccinations) Bergen County MRC, Burlington County MRC and Monmouth County MRC
- Honorable Mention – Community Response (Testing): Burlington County MRC
- Honorable Mentions – Outstanding MRC Responder: Kaylee Hammond and Daniel Oswari, both of the Burlington County MRC.

For more information or to join the NJ MRC, visit: <https://njlmn.njlines.net/>.

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In addition, deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals can ask for an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter when receiving a COVID-19 vaccine at each site to assist with communication access.

In a partnership with the state Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services’ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is providing ASL interpreters daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at each mega-site. Interpreters are available in-person or remotely.

The six mega-sites include: Meadowlands Racetrack, Bergen County; Rockway Townsquare, Morris County; New Jersey Convention and Expo Center, Middlesex County; Rowan College of South Jersey, Gloucester County; Moorestown Mall, Burlington County; Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic County.

NJ Transit’s VAXRIDE program provides a map of the state's vaccination sites served by NJ Transit bus, train and light rail routes.

To date, nearly 1.7 million total doses have been administered at the mega-sites. For appointment information at the mega-sites and other community sites, visit covid19.nj.gov/finder.



Therapy dogs from the Tri-State Canine Response Team interact with members of the community as part of RWJBarnabas Health’s Hope and Healing program at the Middlesex County mega-site. (Photo: RWJBarnabas Health)