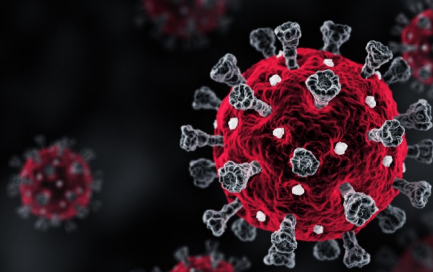


# Vax Matters



Nov. 26, 2021/Dec. 3, 2021



## News

### Save the Date!

The 9th annual Building a Culture of Health Conference: Healing Communities and Connecting Voices is taking



place on December 9-10 at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City.

NJDOH's Office of Population Health partnered with the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance on this year's conference.

Health leaders from across the state will discuss health equity and post-pandemic strategies to heal communities and connect voices. This free conference will feature 12 innovative educational breakout sessions and more.

A special exhibition of *Community Conversations: Pandemic Perspectives, New Jersey's COVID-19 Storytelling Project* will be held in person from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on December 9. The exhibit will showcase selected COVID-19 experiences shared by New Jersey residents in 2020 through interviews, stories, creative works and animations. The *Community Conversations* pre-conference event is sold out.

A full day conference (virtual and in-person) takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 10.

All in-person attendees must provide proof of full vaccination or present a negative COVID-19 test (within 72 hours of entrance) and/or receive a rapid COVID-19 test onsite. Masks will be required for all participants during the conference.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## COVID-19 Booster Doses Authorized for All Adults

All Pfizer and Moderna vaccine recipients 18 years of age and older are now eligible for a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

This follows the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's adoption of updated eligibility recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

All those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine continue to be eligible to receive a booster dose two months after their primary dose.

"Those who haven't received a booster yet may not understand that their immunity has weakened since they received their primary vaccine series," said New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith Commissioner. "All of the vaccines are safe and effective, but all show the need for boosters over time due to waning immunity."

New data reported in *Science* magazine shows declining immunity over time demonstrating the need to get boosted. The study found that vaccine effectiveness in a primary series against infection reduced for each vaccine brand as follows:

- For the J&J vaccine, effectiveness decreased from 86.4% in February to 13.1% in October.
- For Moderna, effectiveness decreased from 89.2% in February to 58% in October.
- For Pfizer, effectiveness decreased from 86.9% in February to 43.3% in October.

"With the holidays approaching, we encourage all individuals age 18 and over who have received their COVID-19 vaccination to get a booster dose," Commissioner Persichilli said. "We also continue to encourage all individuals who have not yet received a vaccination to do so ahead of holiday gatherings and travel to avoid putting themselves, their family, and community at risk. It's that simple."

NJDOH continues to work with all vaccination sites to ensure availability and accessibility to vaccinations and to maintain an adequate supply of vaccine from the federal government.

Visit [covid19.nj.gov/finder](https://covid19.nj.gov/finder) to locate a vaccine appointment or reach out to the Vaccine Call Center at 855-568-0545 if you need help in finding and scheduling an appointment.

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IT'S TIME TO GET BOOSTED!**

All NJ residents 18+ are now eligible for COVID-19 boosters:

- **J&J** recipients 2 months after shot
- **Pfizer/Moderna** recipients 6 months after second shot



For More Information:  
[covid19.nj.gov](https://covid19.nj.gov)



### Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 13.9M+ total doses administered
- ◆ 6.1M+ fully vaccinated people



Find the latest pop-up and mobile vaccination events at [covid19.nj.gov/communitycalendar](https://covid19.nj.gov/communitycalendar).

## COVID-19 Dashboard Lists Surveillance Data for K-12 Schools, Institutions of Higher Education

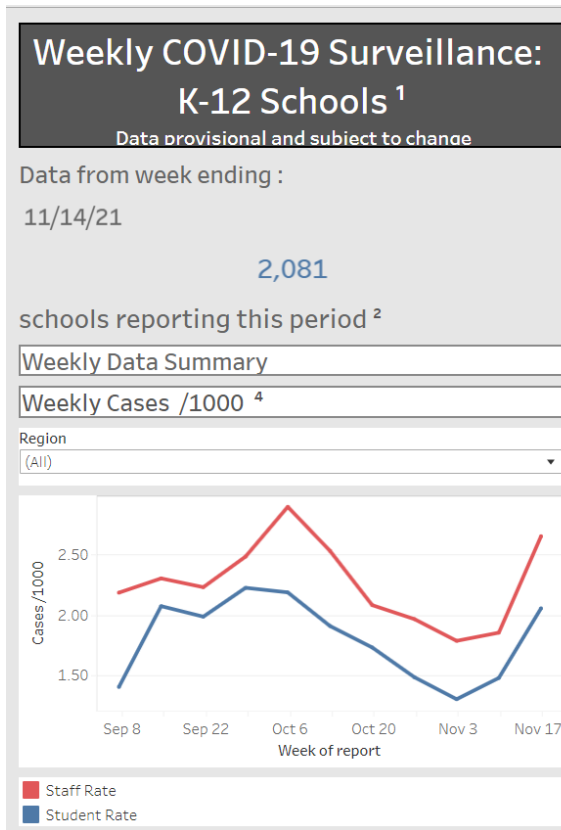
The [covid19.nj.gov](https://covid19.nj.gov) dashboard now includes expanded surveillance data from both K-12 schools and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) who need to quarantine because they had close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive.

NJDOH collects information from K-12 schools and IHEs each week to monitor how COVID-19 is impacting school communities.

“This new data provides a weekly snapshot of current COVID-19 activity in these settings based on reports from staff, parents, and test results from testing conducted by schools,” said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. “This additional information provides new and cumulative case rates among students and staff, shows trends over time, and current activity by county.”

The Department is enrolling more schools each week to report. The most recent data is from 2,081 K-12 schools (nearly 60% of schools in the state) and 45 colleges and universities (more than 40% of colleges/universities in the state).

K-12 schools additionally report staff vaccination rates and the number of students learning remotely for reasons attributed to COVID-19 exclusion, including those with COVID-19 who are isolating, or unvaccinated students



Colleges and universities also report the number of students in isolation or quarantine, staff and student vaccination rates, and the number of COVID-19 clusters on campus, which is defined as two or more individuals linked to a common activity associated with the school community.

A total of 18,747 student cases and 4,095 teacher and/or staff cases have been reported since the beginning of the school year in K-12 schools.

In the state’s colleges and universities, a total of 1,921 student cases and 483 teacher and/or staff cases were reported since the beginning of the school year.

Increases in case rates are being seen among students and staff in both K-12 and IHEs. Rates were higher among staff compared to students in both settings.

This new information can assist school administrators, teachers, students, and parents to track case rates over time, see how their county is faring compared to surrounding areas, monitor the number of students learning remotely in K-12 schools due to COVID-19, and track the number of college/university students in isolation or quarantine at both the county and regional level.



A vaccination clinic at Thomas Edison State University in Trenton drew 302 individuals for vaccinations and booster doses on November 19 and included a visit by NJDOH Commissioner Persichilli, right.

**NJDOH COVID-19 resource page: multilingual flyers, infographics and more to download and share.**