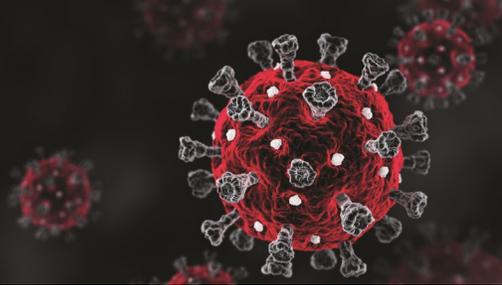


Vax Matters



December 24, 2020



News

Rite Aid Partnership Targets Home Care and Hospice Staff

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) announced a partnership with Rite Aid to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to home care and hospice staff.

Rite Aid will provide end-to-end management of the process, including cold chain storage and vaccinations at mobile clinics, to vaccinate these healthcare workers. Information about scheduling appointments is being provided through home health agencies and their industry associations.

The Department thanks the Home Care and Hospice Association of New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association and the Home Health Services Association for their collaboration in this undertaking.

Pfizer, U.S. Reach Agreement on More Vaccine Doses

The federal government and Pfizer and BioNTech have reached an agreement to provide an additional 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, bringing the total number of U.S. doses to be delivered to 200 million by the end of July.

Resources

[NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#)

[New Jersey COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#)

[Understanding COVID-19 Vaccine: Information for Healthcare Workers](#)

[Sign up for Vax Matters](#)

Two Vaccines Take On COVID-19 In New Jersey

With the rollout of the Moderna vaccine nearly 36,500 healthcare workers have been vaccinated so far in New Jersey.

This week, the state has received 208,000 total doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines: 34,000 are headed to long-term care facilities and 175,000 doses are being distributed to hospitals, federally qualified health centers, county and local health agencies, psychiatric hospitals, urgent care clinics and medical practices, and pharmacies.

"With an amazing scientific breakthrough of two vaccines vetted within a year - that is record time and they're safe and they're efficacious - we are one step closer to stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our state and our nation," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli during a visit to Ocean Health Initiatives in Toms River which was conducting vaccinations using the Moderna vaccine.



Dr. Shomali Dasgupta getting her vaccination this week.

Boosting vaccine confidence among healthcare workers is critical as they will play an important role in the public's understanding of why it is important for them to get vaccinated when the vaccine is widely available for the public.

For Dr. Shomali Dasgupta, part of the dental team at Newark Community Health Centers, getting vaccinated was especially important for her having lost her father, a physician in India, to COVID-19 in October. Both her mother and brother also were infected with the virus but have recovered.

"Definitely take the vaccine at your earliest convenience," urged Dr. Dasgupta, "because this disease is dreadful."

Overall, New Jersey is expected to receive 405,825 Pfizer and Moderna doses for December. On Monday, CVS and Walgreens will begin vaccinations for nursing home residents and staff under a federal pharmacy partnership.



Best Wishes for a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season!

New Jersey Department of Health