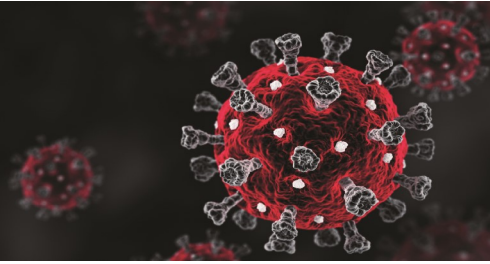


Vax Matters



June 18, 2021



News

Your Voice, Your Shot!

Video Contest



- 1 Create a video of you and others sharing why YOU are getting vaccinated
- 2 Post your video on social media using #YourVoiceYourShotNJ (tag @NJGov)
- 3 Share with you friends and family! The winning video will be part of NJ's public health campaign!

For rules and additional information, visit [covid19.nj.gov/YourVoice](https://www.nj.gov/covid19/nj.gov/YourVoice)



Last Call for Video Contest

Send us your video on why you got vaccinated and that encourages others to do the same. Finalists will be voted on by the public, and the winning video will be used in the state's public awareness campaign.

Share your video via Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or TikTok using the hashtag #YourVoiceYourShotNJ and tag @NJGov. The deadline is June 30.

NJDOH Lifts Closure Orders on Adult Day Health Centers

With the numbers of residents vaccinated increasing, hospitalizations on the decline and decreasing COVID-19 activity in the state, NJDOH has lifted closure orders on Adult Day Health Centers. Facilities will need to attest to satisfying requirements in the guidance, such as screening staff and participants, to ensure centers can open safely.

Governor Signs Legislation Creating COVID-19 Task Force on Racial and Health Disparities

Governor Murphy has signed legislation that creates the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic Task Force on Racial and Health Disparities.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted our minority communities and we must work together to eliminate the existing racial disparities in healthcare," said Governor Murphy.

NJDOH Building to be Named in Tribute to Commissioner as New Jersey Achieves 70% Vaccination Milestone

The New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) new Trenton headquarters will be named in honor of Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli for her ongoing leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Murphy announced Friday during an event marking New Jersey reaching its milestone target of fully vaccinating 4.7 million individuals who live, work or study in the state.

The announcement was supported by Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin. Following the passage of enabling legislation in the Assembly and Senate, the new building will be renamed the "Judith M. Persichilli Building." Department staff moved into the state-of-the-art facility in mid-January.

"Each and every day throughout the pandemic, Judy has remained singularly engaged to save lives and protect public health," said Governor Murphy. "She has been the right leader for these times, and I could not be prouder to have asked Judy to serve as Commissioner two years ago. Now all those who pass through the halls of the 'Judith M. Persichilli Building' will be reminded of Judy's selfless, honorable, and dedicated service to our state and its residents during the greatest public health crisis in New Jersey's history."

The Governor made the announcement at University Hospital, along with Commissioner Persichilli, New Jersey State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan, University Hospital CEO and President Dr. Shereef Elnahal and

(continued on page 2)



Commissioner Persichilli, joined by Governor Murphy, hugs University Hospital Emergency Department nurse Maritza Beniquez following Friday's event in Newark. Below, NJDOH's Trenton headquarters.



Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 9.4M+ vaccine doses administered in N.J.
- ◆ 4.8M+ fully vaccinated people



Check out all of NJDOH's vaccine public awareness videos on our YouTube channel.

NJDOH Partners with Ribs, Balloon Festivals for Vaccination Events

Ballooning and ribs are on tap for two upcoming festivals that NJDOH is partnering with to expand vaccination opportunities in the state. Both festivals will feature on-site vaccination as well as incentives for attendees who get vaccinated.

First up on June 25-27 is the **11th Annual Rock, Ribs and Ridges Festival** featuring music, food and a BBQ competition at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta.

The festival's **Rock the Shot** vaccination event takes place on-site on Saturday, June 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, June 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. NJDOH is partnering with Atlantic Health System to offer the Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

Walk-up attendees will receive discounted tickets with proof of vaccination. Attendees who get vaccinated on-site will be entered into a sweepstakes to win an opportunity to introduce the artists/bands onto the stage; meets and greets with the artists/bands; the chance to be an official judge of the Rock, Ribs and Ridges BBQ Competition held on Sunday afternoon; and a VIP BBQ Dinner on-site during the event.

On July 23-25, NJDOH is partnering with the **New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning** taking place at the Solberg Airport in Readington. Similar prizes will be announced. The annual balloon festival features music, food, vendors and twice-daily mass hot air balloon ascensions.



The Rock the Shot vaccination event takes place at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.

NJDOH Continues to Expand Vaccine Access to Primary Care Physicians, Pediatricians

As part of its ongoing efforts to make COVID-19 vaccines readily accessible for all New Jerseyans, NJDOH has expanded its work to increase vaccine access at primary care, family practice and pediatricians' offices.

NJDOH's Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP) has been working with primary care providers to prepare them for distribution of vaccines in their offices and sharing information on reporting and storage requirements. The department is reaching out to the remaining providers registered in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) and who want to administer the vaccine.

As part of that effort, Commissioner Persichilli last week spoke to members of the Medical Society of New Jersey about how additional physicians can become active providers.

NJIS is the central repository for all immunization management in New Jersey, and any site that wants to provide COVID-19 vaccines must first register with NJIS. To register, facilities must fill out the "NJIS COVID Enrollment

Request Form" at: <https://njiis.nj.gov/covid/web/index.html#/newFacilityEnrollment>. Additionally, all facility staff who will be managing the receipt of vaccine, storage and handling, inventory management and reporting of doses administered must take the required NJIS COVID-19 training.

Once registered, any facility that will be receiving COVID-19 vaccine, storing that vaccine on-site and/or will be providing COVID-19 vaccinations will need to complete a CDC Provider Agreement. These agreements are completed in NJIS and will be reviewed by NJDOH's VPDP team for approval and activation. Once activated, sites can then place requests for vaccine allocation.

There are currently over 1,500 active vaccine providers in New Jersey. A guide to assist in completing the Provider Agreement in NJIS can be found at: [https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/covid/COVID-19 Provider Agreement Completion Guide.pdf](https://njiis.nj.gov/docs/covid/COVID-19%20Provider%20Agreement%20Completion%20Guide.pdf). All documents and help guides can be found on the NJIS website: <https://njiis.nj.gov/core/web/index.html#/home>.

(continued from page 1)

Emergency Department Nurse Maritza Beniquez, who was the first person in New Jersey to be vaccinated when the rollout began on December 15, 2020.

Governor Murphy's announcement that the state has hit its ambitious initial goal of fully vaccinating 4.7 million individuals came nearly two weeks before its original target date of June 30.

New Jersey's vaccination rollout began with healthcare workers and long-term care staff and residents, and ex-

panded over the weeks to include other groups before eligibility opened up to everyone 16 and older in April. In May, use of the Pfizer vaccine was expanded to include children ages 12 to 15.

NJDOH has since built up a network of currently over 1,500 vaccination sites, including mega-sites, local pharmacies, supermarkets and other community-based sites; partnerships with houses of worship; and pop-up and drive-through clinics. NJDOH also will be sending vaccine ambassadors to high risk counties to work with elected officials, community leaders, school districts and faith leaders.

Sign up for Vax Matters