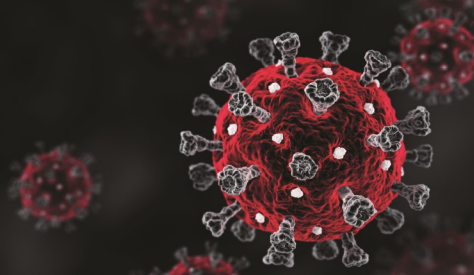


# Vax Matters



July 30, 2021/August 6, 2021



## News



### Mobile Vaccinations in East Orange, Camden, Bridgeton

NJDOH's Mobile Command Center bus will be at several upcoming free COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Camden, East Orange and Bridgeton. The Pfizer (ages 12+), Moderna (ages 18+) and J&J (ages 18+) vaccines will be available.

#### East Orange sites include:

- August 3: Noon to 7 p.m.; Oval Park, 130 Eaton Place
- August 5: Noon to 7 p.m.; City Hall, 44 City Hall Plaza
- August 8: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Bethel Haitian Baptist Church, 320 Springdale Ave.

The **Camden** sites, open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., include:

- August 7 and 10: Staley Park, Chelton Avenue and South 7th Street
- August 3 and 5: Yorkship Square Park, Yorkship Road and Yorkship Square
- August 12 and 14: Whitman Square, Rose and Everett streets

In **Bridgeton**, sites include:

- August 10 and 12: 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., Bridgeton Riverfront, Downtown Bridgeton, Route 49 (Broad and Commerce streets)

You do not need to show ID documentation or proof of insurance to get vaccinated. No appointments are needed; walk-ins are welcome.

## New Jersey Issues New Masking Recommendations

Following the announcement by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding masking, Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith Persichilli strongly recommended that both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents wear masks in indoor settings when there is increased risk.

Examples of such situations include:

- Crowded indoor settings
- Indoor settings involving activities with close contact with others who may not be fully vaccinated
- Indoor settings where the vaccine

status of other individuals in the setting is unknown

- Where an individual is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease

Governor Murphy and Commissioner Persichilli made the following statement:

*“Our metrics are trending in the wrong direction, and new data suggests the Delta variant is more transmissible even among vaccinated individuals, which is why we are making this strong recommendation.”*

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## N.J. Recognizes August as National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, which highlights the importance of being up to date on vaccination to prevent serious diseases such as measles, meningitis, and whooping cough.

“National Immunization Awareness Month has been commemorated since long before COVID-19, but this year with the vaccines toolbox, it takes on a special meaning,” said Governor Murphy during this past week’s press briefing. “The vaccines are proving to be safe and highly effective. By getting vaccinated, you are not only protecting yourself from a potentially deadly virus, you are protecting your family and your community.”



Graphics courtesy of CDC

### Immunization rates drop due to delayed well visits

During the COVID-19 pandemic due to child well visits being delayed, New Jersey saw a drop in immunization rates for young children of about 9% compared to 2019.

As children return to school and other extracurricular activities, parents should make sure their children are caught up on all childhood recommended vaccines.

Children can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same time.

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### Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 10.4M+ vaccine doses administered in N.J.
- ◆ 5.2M+ fully vaccinated people



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

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“To ensure that young adults are fully protected against COVID-19 virus when they return to school, they need to get vaccinated now,” said Commissioner Persichilli. “I encourage any parent of an unvaccinated 12- to 17-year-old to make an appointment for their child today so that they can be fully vaccinated when the school year begins.”

Visit [covid19.nj.gov/finder](https://covid19.nj.gov/finder) to find the nearest vaccination site.

It is critical for New Jerseyans to maintain routine immunizations as well as vaccinations against COVID-19 to protect individuals. Nationwide, among children born between 1994 and 2018, vaccinations will prevent an estimated 419 million illnesses, 26.8 million hospitalizations, and 936,000 deaths over their lifetimes.

“COVID-19 disrupted both in-person learning and routine vaccination appointments for many children over the last year,” said the Commissioner. “I encourage families to put vaccination at the top of their checklist as part of their safe return to school and increased social activities.”

Childhood vaccines protect against 16 serious diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib), hepatitis B, varicella (chickenpox) and pneumococcal disease, thereby reducing the spread of disease to others in classrooms, child care centers and communities.



Everyone six months of age and older is recommended to receive a yearly flu vaccine. Benefits of flu vaccination include reduced flu illnesses, fewer doctors' visits and fewer flu-related hospitalizations.

As children get older, they need to be protected from certain diseases like pertussis (whooping cough), meningococcal disease, and infections that can lead to

cancers associated with human papillomavirus (HPV).

The need for vaccines does not end in childhood. Adults may need vaccines to protect against whooping cough, pneumonia, and shingles. Vaccination is especially important for those who suffer from chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

Living with one of these chronic health conditions and getting sick with a vaccine-preventable disease can cause severe health consequences.

## Be ready for the start of the school year To ensure full protection against COVID-19, now is the time to get your child vaccinated

- Children 12+ can get the Pfizer vaccine
- There's a 21-day gap between the two Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses
- Your child won't be fully immunized until two weeks after their second dose



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“Fortunately, our numbers are a fraction of those in many other states, most of which have significantly lower vaccination rates. Should our numbers reach those levels, we reserve the right to take more drastic action, including a statewide mask mandate.

“We have crushed this virus repeatedly like no other state in the nation, and we are proud to boast among the country's highest vaccination rates. But at this

point, given where our metrics are now, we feel the best course of action is to strongly encourage every New Jerseyan, and every visitor to our state, to take personal responsibility and mask up indoors when prudent.

“And we equally encourage every unvaccinated resident or visitor to get vaccinated. The vaccines are proven safe and highly effective, and are the surest way we can end this pandemic.”

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit [covid19.nj.gov/vaccine](https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccine).

### Resources

- ◆ NJ Vaccine Call Center: 855-568-0545
- ◆ [COVID-19 Vaccine Finder](https://covid19.nj.gov/finder)
- ◆ [NJ Transit VAXRIDE](https://njtransit.com/vaxride)

**Sign up for Vax Matters**