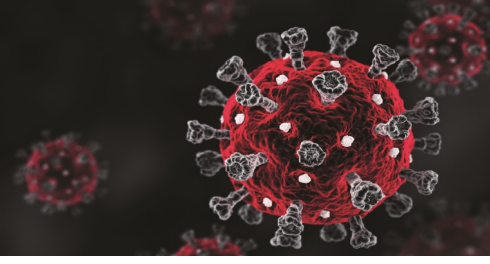


Vax Matters



July 23, 2021



News

NJ Teens Urge Vaccination in Video

Three New Jersey teens share why COVID-19 vaccination is important for them and other teens in a [video](#) they produced. The teens, all from Carteret High School, are youth leaders with NJDOH's Family Health Services Child and Adolescent Health Program. The video was recently shared during a webinar addressing adolescents and COVID-19 vaccination hosted by the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Grateful for the Shot Events This Weekend

Free Grateful for the Shot vaccination events, which partner with houses of worship, are taking place this weekend in Asbury Park, Lakewood and Trenton. This weekend's events include:

Lakewood: Saturday, July 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; in partnership with All Saints Episcopal; at Ocean Health Initiatives, 101 2nd St.; Pfizer (12+) and Johnson & Johnson (18+) vaccines will be offered.

Asbury Park: Sunday, July 25, Noon to 3 p.m.; Cathedral International, 1200 Grand Ave.; Pfizer (12+) and Johnson & Johnson (18+) vaccines will be offered.

Trenton: Sunday, July 25, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; in partnership with Shiloh Baptist Church/Shiloh Community Development Corporation; 416 Bellevue Ave. (former Mercer Medical Center); Pfizer (12+), Moderna (18+) and Johnson & Johnson (18+) vaccines will be offered.

Walk-ins are welcome. ID documentation and health insurance are not required, and there is no impact on immigration status.

Case Rates Among Kids Under 12 Increasing on Par with Overall Rise

High vaccination rates protect not only those who are vaccinated but also provide a level of protection for those who cannot yet be vaccinated, such as children under age 12.

"The Delta variant, which is highly transmissible and virulent, is driving cases in unvaccinated residents including children nationally," said New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "It is expected that this variant will cause increasing cases among children who cannot be vaccinated, including severe cases. We are concerned."

In New Jersey, case rates among children under 12 have increased in line with the overall increase in cases. In comparing data from June 12 to data from last week:

- Case rates per 100,000 have increased 29 percent among those aged four and under
- For those ages five to 10 years, the case rate has increased 15 percent
- For those ages 11 to 13, case rates per 100,000 have increased 36 percent

"This is troubling because those under 12 cannot be vaccinated yet, so they do not have the protection the vaccine offers," the Commissioner said.

Those over age 12, however, can be vaccinated. It is especially important that the vaccination rate in the 12-17 age group is strong as this age group is mixing with those under 12 at summer camps, in summer schools and in the fall, and in their own households.

Currently, Pfizer is the only vaccine authorized for those 12 and up; Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are for those ages 18 and up.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted that Americans between 12 and 29 are contracting COVID-19 at the highest rates, while having the lowest coverage rates.

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Vaccinations at a Grateful for the Shot event sponsored last weekend by the Parish of Our Lady of the Angels in Trenton.

Vaccination Progress

- ◆ 10.3M+ 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.



Don't forget your **second shot!**



Did you know that the second dose*...

Boosts protection

Increased vaccine effectiveness protects you and others from COVID-19

Brings back activities

With full vaccination, you can resume activities you did before the pandemic

Is available anywhere

You can get a second dose at any site in New Jersey

Is not too late to get

You can get a second dose even if you missed your original appointment

*Second dose is required for Pfizer and Moderna. The Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine only requires one dose. Activities include socializing without a mask, traveling without being subject to quarantine restrictions

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Ten percent of New Jersey's cases have been among those in the 5 to 17 age group, which represents 90,693 children in that age range who have tested positive in the state.

Currently in New Jersey, individuals ages 19 through 24 have the highest percent positivity at 3.68 percent.

The second highest is among those 25 through 29 years of age at 3.46 percent.

Through the hard work of so many individuals, New Jersey has among the highest vaccination rates in the nation – 70 percent

of New Jerseyans over the age of 30 have received at least one vaccine dose.

However, while some age groups have high vaccination coverage, younger groups are still lagging.

In New Jersey:

- 61 percent of those 18 through 29 have received at least one dose of vaccine
- And only 42 percent of those 12 through 17 have received at least one dose of vaccine

NJDOH continues to build on efforts to get more individuals in these younger groups vaccinated to build greater protection for the state.

My Vaccine Story

“Without the vaccine, there is a danger that the virus that has been around for a while will re-surge...**this vaccine is critical for ongoing protection.**”

-Dr. James Pruden

Medical Director, St. Joseph's University Medical Center



Video Contest Winner Announced

Following nearly 2,000 votes cast, a winner has been chosen in the *Your Voice, Your Shot* video contest which asked New Jerseyans to record their reasons for getting vaccinated.

The winning video, “Jersey Summer,” by John Walsh of Belmar, was among 29 video submissions.

The video and the two finalists can be [viewed here](#).



Resources

- ◆ NJ Vaccine Call Center: 855-568-0545
- ◆ COVID-19 Vaccine Finder
- ◆ [NJ Transit VAXRIDE](#)
- ◆ [COVID-19 Awareness Campaign - Digital Resource Toolkit](#)

Sign up for Vax Matters