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 Belle Vue 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.

(Continued on page 2)

Find the latest pop-up and mobile vaccination events at covid19.nj.gov/communitycalendar.
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.