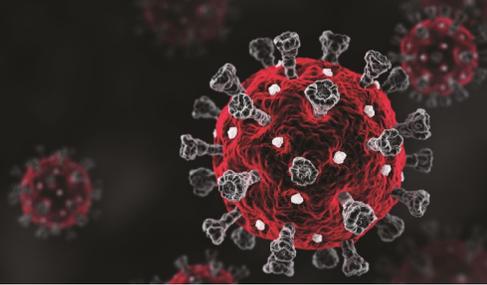


Vax Matters



December 31, 2020



News

Vaccination Sites Available for Healthcare Workers

[Community-based vaccination sites are now open](#) across New Jersey for Phase 1A healthcare workers.

[Phase 1A](#) includes paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

Phase 1A also includes long-term care residents and staff.

Healthcare workers can choose a site and call the site's phone number to schedule an appointment.

Those not yet eligible can learn more about the vaccine program at covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.

In January, New Jersey will launch its online vaccine scheduling system to further help Phase 1A recipients to identify vaccination locations and schedule appointments.



Rowan University's School of Osteopathic Medicine kicked off "Operation Saving Lives" and is among the list of sites.

Vaccinations Begin for Long-Term Care Residents, Staff

Vaccinations began this week at New Jersey's long-term care facilities under the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program between the Centers for Disease Control and CVS and Walgreens.

To date, 503 facilities have been scheduled to receive their first vaccinations through CVS and 36 with Walgreens.

Mildred Clements, 103, of Roosevelt Care Center in Old Bridge, was the state's first long-term care resident to receive the vaccine during a CVS clinic at the site. Esther Moodey, a nurse at the facility, was the first staff member.

"I felt normal. I was excited to receive it. I was nervous but it's beautiful," said Esther, who has been a staff nurse at Roosevelt Care Center for over 14 years. "I'm glad I got it. I'm glad I'm the first one to get it, too."

The federal partnership program expects to vaccinate over 109,880 residents and staff through the beginning of February, with more sites of congregating living to be scheduled.

"Throughout this pandemic, the residents and staff of our long-term care facilities have been among the most severely impacted," said New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "With the start of this large-scale vaccination effort, we are continuing to strengthen protections for our most vulnerable populations, along with the staff who have been truly courageous in caring for them."

Vaccinations are also underway for residents and staff of the state's three veterans memorial homes.

In addition to long-term care residents and staff, 72,657 individuals have now received the vaccine. Information for Phase 1A healthcare workers on vaccination locations can be found at covid19.nj.gov/vaccine.

New Jersey continues its journey to vaccinate 70 percent of the eligible population. The state has been awarded over 400,000 vaccine doses in December. Of that, approximately 120,000 doses have been reserved for long-term care facilities' residents and staff; 280,000 doses have been allocated to hospitals and community sites. Of that, approximately 265,000 have been delivered with the remainder expected at the end of this week.



Governor Murphy greets Mildred Clements, the first long-term care resident in N.J. to be vaccinated.



Nurse Esther Moodey receiving the vaccine.

South Jersey Doctor Working to Battle Hesitancy over COVID-19 Vaccines

Dr. Jubril Oyeyemi says he understands the hesitancy surrounding whether to get the COVID-19 vaccine, which he says will “be primary care doctors’ biggest challenge” in an op-ed published in [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

Oyeyemi, who moved to the U.S. from Nigeria when he was 16, serves as medical director of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers and the Community Health Institute at Virtua Health, and is the founder and executive director of the Cherry Hill Free Clinic.

“As a person of color, seeing how this virus ravaged minority patients is devastating — and I know this vaccine will be the only way to save lives,” he wrote in the op-ed.

Dr. Oyeyemi recalled a nursing colleague he had worked alongside with for years who died from COVID-19, as well as a family member, and recalled the loss of one patient – a 40-year-old father of four.

From caring for everyone from patients to family members to friends, “once you’ve seen that, getting a vaccination that offers 95% efficacy – it’s a no brainer,” he told NJDOH. “We’ve all been hit by this.”

He said he wrote the op-ed after seeing social media posts and hearing anecdotal stories about vaccine hesitancy, particularly from members of the Black community.

“There are a lot of concerns with the community especially with the historical baggage from the scientific and medical community among Black folks,” he said. “My hope is to be able to relate to my local community that this is about protecting us.”

Dr. Oyeyemi got his vaccination last week and said he is looking forward to his second booster shot.

If safety is a concern for some, “the vaccine is overwhelmingly safe,” he told NJDOH.



Dr. Jubril Oyeyemi



Wanted: Volunteers Sought for Medical Reserve Corps

The New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – a network of community-based, locally organized units comprised of volunteers – is looking for reinforcements, particularly those with vaccination skills.

The MRC helps ensure their communities are healthy, prepared and resilient.

MRC volunteers are especially vital during emergencies and disasters when paid public health and emergency response assets are overwhelmed.

Healthcare professionals (including recently retired individuals) having vaccination skills are especially needed now that COVID-19 vaccines are available for delivery cur-

rently to Phase 1A within communities.

If you are interested in volunteering with the MRC, visit <https://njlmn.njlincs.net/> and click on "Register as an Existing or New MRC Volunteer!"

Registration instructions can be followed from there. MRC units are county-based, and each county has at least one.

In addition to skilled vaccinators, individuals with all types of skill sets (for example, security, language translation/interpretation, education and outreach, warehouse operations, clerical, counseling and more) are needed.

Vaccine Video Series for Healthcare Workers Available

Rutgers Project ECHO recently hosted a COVID-19 Vaccination Essentials webinar series with NJDOH to answer questions from healthcare personnel and to provide updates on vaccine safety, when and where to get vaccinated, what to expect at points of dispensing, and related topics. [Videos of the four sessions](#) are now available.

Call Center Tallies Hotline Calls

As 2020 comes to a close, the [New Jersey Poison Control Center](#) has spoken to over 70,000 people on the COVID-19 hotline.

Resources

[NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#)

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

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