



What You Need To Know About The COVID-19 Vaccine

What are the benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine?

A COVID-19 vaccine can protect you from getting sick with COVID-19. Vaccines help your immune system fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

Can I get sick with COVID-19 from a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. COVID-19 vaccines can protect you from getting COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the virus that causes COVID-19.

What is involved in getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

To get a COVID-19 vaccine, you will get two shots in your arm. After the first shot, you will have to get a second shot 3 or 4 weeks later.

How much does it cost to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A COVID-19 vaccine should be provided to you at no or low cost. You cannot be denied a vaccine if you are unable to pay for one.

Am I required to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No, you are not required to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Can children get a COVID-19 vaccine?

You must be at least 16 years old to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines for children. It is not yet known if and when COVID-19 vaccines for children younger than 16 will be available.

Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Outside of Philadelphia, distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in Pennsylvania is being managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In Philadelphia, distribution of COVID-19 vaccines is being managed by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

Both the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health have adopted a vaccine distribution plan that gives priority for COVID-19 vaccines to certain essential workers and individuals with high risk of getting sick from COVID-19. Both plans have “phases” that include different groups of essential workers and at-risk individuals. There are no set dates for when each phase will begin, and individuals included in each phase are subject to change.

Information on who may get a vaccine in each phase outside of Philadelphia can be found at

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>.

Information for Philadelphia can be found at

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-COVID-19-19/vaccines/about-COVID-19-19-vaccine/>.

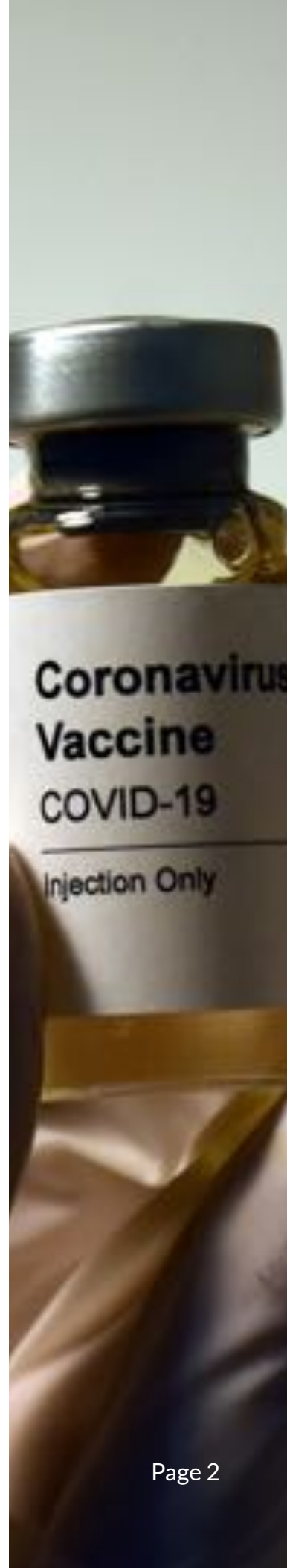
If you are a veteran, you also may be eligible to get a vaccine at a VA health facility. Information on COVID-19 vaccines at VA can be found at

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/COVID-19-19-vaccine/>.

Can an unpaid caregiver get a COVID vaccine in Phase 1A?

Under the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s vaccine distribution plan, unpaid caregivers for an elderly person or a person with a disability in a Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) Program are considered “health care personnel” eligible for vaccination in Phase 1A.

If you are an unpaid caregiver, DHS has a letter you can provide to vaccine providers available at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/COVID19-PROVIDER-RESOURCES.aspx>.



Where and how do I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Outside Philadelphia

The Pennsylvania Department of Health does not have a centralized system for people to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine. Instead, you must make an appointment directly with a vaccine provider. Providers include some hospitals and health systems, community health centers, pharmacies, and county health departments. Some counties, including [Chester and Delaware](#), have set up pre-registration to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine. You can check with your county or county health department to see if your county has a similar sign up.

You can find a COVID-19 vaccine provider, and information on how to make an appointment, online at <https://www.pa.gov/guides/get-vaccinated/>. You can also call the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 1-877-724-3258 for assistance finding a vaccine provider or with questions about the vaccination process.

COVID-19 vaccine supply remains limited, and some vaccine providers are either not yet offering vaccinations to the general public, or are offering vaccinations only for certain groups. For example, many hospitals at this time are offering vaccines only to health care workers. Other providers are offering vaccines only to individuals ages 65 and older.

You should also check with your county, as some counties, including [Allegheny](#), [Chester](#), and [Delaware](#), have set up county-operated vaccination clinics.

In Philadelphia

Information about COVID-19 vaccines in Philadelphia, including a link to sign up for a vaccine, can be found at: <https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-COVID-19-19/vaccines/about-COVID-19-19-vaccine/>.

Veterans

Information about COVID-19 vaccines at VA health facilities can be found at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/COVID-19-19-vaccine/>.





Contact Information

If you need more information or need help, please contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) at 800-692-7443 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TTY), or email us at intake@disabilityrightspa.org.

The mission of Disability Rights Pennsylvania is to advance, protect, and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Due to our limited resources, Disability Rights Pennsylvania cannot provide individual services to every person with advocacy and legal issues. Disability Rights Pennsylvania prioritizes cases that have the potential to result in widespread, systemic changes to benefit persons with disabilities. While we cannot provide assistance to everyone, we do seek to provide every individual with information and referral options.

IMPORTANT: This publication is for general informational purposes only. This publication is not intended, nor should be construed, to create an attorney-client relationship between Disability Rights Pennsylvania and any person. Nothing in this publication should be considered to be legal advice.

PLEASE NOTE: For information in alternative formats or a language other than English, contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania at: 800-692-7443, Ext. 400; TTY: 877-375-7139; or intake@disabilityrightspa.org.

Follow Us On Social Media

