

COVID-19 in Our Communities

What you need to know



Why are we here?

- To share information about COVID-19 in our communities.
- To ask for your help encouraging our friends and family to **get tested for COVID-19** when necessary.
- To ask for help **promoting the COVID-19 vaccine** and showing people how to get vaccinated.



Current state of COVID-19 in our communities:

- COVID-19 rates have dropped in LA County. We are moving in the right direction. Masks and vaccines are working.
- The majority of Californians ages 12+ have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Many communities of color still have low vaccination rates and high hospitalization rates.



Current state of COVID-19 in our communities:

- There are still hot spots throughout LA County.
- New surges happen when:
 - Low numbers of people are vaccinated.
 - People don't wear masks or social distance.
 - People don't get tested when they have symptoms.



Remembering the basics - even if you are vaccinated

- **Wear masks** covering your nose and mouth.
- **Wash your hands** frequently.
- **Practice physical distancing.**
- **Get tested** when you are sick or if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 .
- **If you test positive, isolate and tell your close contacts.**



Vaccines AND testing are both necessary!

- Everyone should get the vaccine. Vaccines can save your life and the lives of your loved ones.
- As more people get vaccines, there will be smaller and smaller pockets where COVID-19 can spread. When we limit the spread, we also limit the virus's opportunities to develop new variants.
- Testing will help people find out early if they have COVID-19 and stop it from spreading.
- Encourage friends and family get tested if they have symptoms.



Who should get tested?

- Everyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 (even if you are vaccinated).
- People who are not fully vaccinated* and have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (or think you have been exposed).
 - You can still have COVID-19 even if you have no symptoms.
 - If you were exposed, quarantine and get a test 4-5 days after the exposure.
The test may miss infection if it's done too early.
- Everyone who was asked by a public health official to get tested (even if you are vaccinated).

*Unless you live or work in a group living setting or crowded workplace AND are around someone who has COVID-19

Slow the spread with contact tracing.

- Contact tracing is when people who test positive tell close contacts that they may have been exposed too.
- Those close contacts can use that information to get tested for COVID-19.
- The public health department also does contact tracing and may call to tell people if they were exposed to COVID-19. It will show on your phone as “LA PublicHealth” or 1-(833) 641-0305.



How can I get a COVID-19 test?

- Call your doctor.
 - If you don't have a doctor,
 - **Call 2-1-1** to find a testing location near you, or
 - Go to the LA County COVID-19 testing website at covid19.lacounty.gov/testing
 - **Click to make an appointment.**
 - **Some sites don't need appointments.**
 - Some residents can get a test mailed to their home.
- For more information, check the website.

Reminders about testing:

- Testing is free.
 - No one should be charged for a test.
 - Health insurers are required to cover COVID-19 tests when ordered by a doctor.
- Testing is easy.
 - You can show up at most sites without an appointment.
 - Testing sites are in places where we live, commute and work like grocery stores and churches.
 - You will not be asked about immigration status.



Vaccines in LA County



Vaccines are easy to access.

- **Vaccines are available near you today. Get vaccinated as soon as possible.**
 - Vaccines are the most powerful way to keep our friends and family safe and end the pandemic.
- **Vaccines are available for free** at pharmacies, clinics, places of worship, hospitals and other sites near you. Insurance is not required.
- **You will not be asked about your immigration status.**
- **No appointment is needed at many locations.**
- **To get the vaccine:**
 - Visit the MyTurn.ca.gov website to find a location, or
 - Make an appointment at a pharmacy or clinic that offers vaccinations, or
 - Dial 2-1-1 on your phone to make an appointment, or
 - Find an LA County vaccination site near you at VaccinateLACounty.com.

Guidelines about vaccines and masking:

- **Many locations, events and venues require proof of vaccination.**
 - People who go to indoor and outdoor mega events are required to show ID and proof of vaccination or a negative test result prior to entry.
 - People who go inside bars, breweries, wineries and nightclubs will be required to show proof of vaccination.
- **Wear a mask in indoor spaces whether you are vaccinated or not.**
 - Wearing a mask lowers the risk of getting the virus and giving it to others.
 - Both employees and customers need to wear masks indoors when they are not eating or drinking.

What to know about vaccines for children:

- All LA Unified School District students age 12 and older are required to be fully vaccinated by **January 10th, 2022**. Some students might have medical exemptions.
 - Visit [LAUSD COVID-19 FAQ](#) for more info.
- **Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now available for children 5-11 years old.** The vaccine is **safe**, **effective**, and **approved** by the FDA and CDC
 - Visit the [kids FAQ](#) for more information

Schedule an appointment today,

VaccinateLACounty.com



LA County is now offering free booster doses.

LA County is offering booster doses of all COVID-19 vaccines – Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. People can choose to receive a booster dose that is different than their original vaccine. Currently eligibility includes :

- 65 years or older ,
- Residents of long-term care facilities,
- 18 to 64 years old with existing medical conditions,
- 18 to 64 years at a higher risk based on where they work.
 - This includes healthcare workers, first responders, teachers and day care staff, grocery workers, and workers in homeless shelters and prisons.

Note: Received a J&J dose at least 2 months ago & are 18+



What to know about booster doses

- **Boosters are currently available to people who received any COVID-19 vaccine.** All COVID-19 vaccines are now approved for booster doses.
- **Booster doses are common for many vaccines.** Data shows that protection against COVID-19 might get weaker over time after vaccination. Boosters help make sure protection against COVID-19 lasts as long as possible.
- If you qualify, you can get a booster dose **at any site offering any vaccine in LA County.** This includes your local pharmacy, clinics, places of worship, hospitals, & other sites where you live, work, play and pray.
- **Vaccines and booster doses are always free. You will not be asked about immigration status.** Insurance is not required.

What to know about “additional doses”

- **People with weak immune systems may not build enough protection against COVID-19 after two doses.** These individuals should get an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Only people with certain serious illnesses qualify. This includes:**
 - Being treated for cancer
 - With advanced HIV
 - With chronic kidney disease
 - Taking drugs that weaken (or suppress) the immune system
- If you received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, you should get a third dose of the same vaccine.
- If you received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you should get a booster dose at least two months after your original dose.
- If you qualify, you can get an additional dose **at any vaccine site in LA County.**

People with weakened immune systems may not build enough protection after two doses.

WHO SHOULD GET A THIRD DOSE?

A third dose is now recommended for moderately or severely immunosuppressed people who got the **Pfizer** or **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine. This includes people:

- Being treated for cancer
- With advanced HIV
- With chronic kidney disease
- Taking drugs that weaken (or suppress) the immune system

The third dose is recommended at least 28 days after 2nd dose of **Pfizer/Moderna**.

Booster shots are common and given for many vaccines.

WHO SHOULD GET A BOOSTER?

Booster shots are now recommended for the following people:

JOHNSON & JOHNSON (J&J) –
at least 2 months after initial series

- Everyone who got J&J as their first shot should get a booster

PFIZER/MODERNA –
at least 6 months after the final dose of the initial series

- **65+**
- **18+** and the following
 - At high-risk of severe COVID-19 (immunocompromised and other medical conditions)
 - Live in long-term care facility
 - With frequent institutional or occupational exposure to COVID-19, including essential workers

If you meet any of these qualifications, you can have any of the available boosters from **Pfizer**, **Moderna**, or **Johnson & Johnson**, no matter which vaccine you received.

How to get a booster dose

- **Make an appointment.**
 - Visit the [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) website, or
 - Make an appointment at a pharmacy or clinic that offers any COVID-19 vaccinations, or
 - Dial 2-1-1 on your phone to make an appointment, or
 - Find an LA County vaccination site near you at [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://vaccinate.lacounty.gov)
- **Show your Vaccine Record Card.** You will need to bring proof that you are fully vaccinated. You can bring the white vaccination card, a photo of the white card, or a digital record.



Vaccine Record Card

- **Keep your Vaccine Record Card safe.** It's important that you store it safely in a secure location.
 - You will be asked to show proof of vaccination based on guidelines and requirements.
- **Take a picture of your Vaccine Record Card.** If you don't want to carry your card you can take a picture of it to show proof of vaccination when needed.
- **Digital Vaccine Record Card.** You can request a digital copy of your card at: myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov
If you lose your vaccine record card request a digital copy



Thank you!

