

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

## COVID-19 Guidelines, Variants, Vaccines FAQs Updated 08/19/2021

Reminder: COVID-19 remains prevalent in our community. It is important to continue to practice COVID-19 mitigation efforts including staying home when sick, practicing social distancing, washing your hands with soap and water, and wearing a face mask when in an indoor public space.

The COVID-19 vaccine remains the *best way* to slow down the COVID-9 pandemic. The vaccine is safe and effective and has been proven to reduce serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

### THIRD DOSE INFORMATION

Who can get a third dose of the vaccine?

At this time, those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are eligible for the third dose. This includes: Those who are received active cancer treatment, organ transplant recipients who take medicine to suppress the immune system, stem cell transplant recipients in the last two years, those with advanced or untreated HIV, those who are on active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other immunosuppressants.

I received a Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Can I receive another dose?

At this time, an additional dose only pertains to Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

I received two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. Can I receive a third dose of Moderna? (or vice versa)

You should receive the same pharmaceutical as your first and second doses.

I received a Johnson and Johnson vaccine, can I receive a second and third dose of either Moderna or Pfizer?

No. You should receive the same pharmaceutical as your first dose.

When can I get the third dose?

The third dose for all eligible Americans will begin the week of September 20, 2021.

How long do I have to wait between my second and third dose?

You must wait 8 months between your second and third dose.

Is the third dose the same as the first and second dose?

Yes.

Who can get the third dose?

It is anticipated the third dose roll out will be similar to the initial vaccine roll out, with the elderly, healthcare workers, and nursing home residents receiving the third dose first.

Can I sign up now for a third dose?

No.

There was such a high demand for vaccines with some shortages. Will this happen again?

The vaccine is readily available throughout our community and the country. It is not anticipated that there will be a shortage.

Why do I need a third dose?

COVID-19 remains at high transmission. An additional dose helps your immune system maintain the antibodies of the vaccine, giving you continued protection.

## UPDATED CDC GUIDELINES

On Tuesday, July 27, 2021 the CDC updated COVID-19 mask guidelines. These recommendations include:

- *Universal masking for all K-12 schools regardless of vaccine status*
  - *This includes all students, staff, and visitors*
  - *Schools should return to in-person learning with precautions in place*
- *All individuals, regardless of vaccine status, should wear a face mask in indoor public spaces in areas where COVID-19 is considered high transmission*
  - *This includes vaccinated individuals*

Why the change in guidelines?

The CDC bases its recommendations on the latest data. New data = new guidance. When the CDC revised its guidance in May, the delta variant represented 1% of all cases. Today that number is more than 80%. The CDC continues to recommend that policies be based on local transmission rates.

I'm vaccinated. Why do I need to wear a mask?

Vaccinated individuals may be able to carry the COVID-19 virus, thus giving it to unvaccinated individuals.

It's their choice not to get vaccinated. Why should I wear a mask?

There are several individuals who may not be able to receive the vaccine. This includes children, infants, and those who are immunocompromised.

My child will be starting school soon. Should they wear a mask?

Masks are optional. However, you and your child may choose to wear a mask in school based on the updated CDC guidelines.

Are we in an area of high transmission?

The entire State of Florida is considered high transmission. Visit the CDC Data Tracker for more information: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

## VARIANT AND BREAKTHROUGH CASES INFORMATION

Does the vaccine protect against variants?

All COVID-19 vaccines that are currently available offer protection against variants.

Why get the vaccine if there will just be more variants?

The more people who receive the vaccine will reduce the number of variants.

Where can I find information on variants in Florida?

The CDC tracks this data. For more information visit: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

I have heard reports of "breakthrough cases". What is that?

A breakthrough case means that someone who is vaccinated gets the virus. This is not uncommon and can happen with other illnesses such as chicken pox (varicella) and the flu (influenza).

Why get the vaccine if I can still get the virus?

The vaccine has been proven to REDUCE the severity of the illness, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19.

## VACCINE INFORMATION

I don't live in Collier County, can I still receive a vaccine? OR Why are non-Collier residents allowed to receive a vaccine?

The vaccine rollout is a nationwide effort. There are no exclusions based on residency. The vaccine is readily available in our community.

How do I find out where vaccines are being given?

You may check [floridahealthcovid19.gov](http://floridahealthcovid19.gov) or [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) for a vaccination site nearest you.

What vaccine are you providing?

The Moderna vaccine.

Who can receive the vaccine?

Those who are aged 18 years and older may receive the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Those aged 12 years and older may receive the Pfizer vaccine.

I am homebound. How do I receive the vaccine?

Contact 239-252-6220 to schedule an appointment to have a DOH staff member come to your house to administer the vaccine.

My child is 14 years old. Where can I get the Pfizer vaccine?

Visit [floridahealthcovid19.gov](http://floridahealthcovid19.gov) or [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) for a vaccination site nearest you.

I have received my two doses. I want a booster. Where can I get one?

At this time, none of the current vaccines have been approved for a booster or for a "third shot".

## **SECOND DOSE QUESTIONS**

I received a Moderna vaccine. Can I receive a Pfizer vaccine for my second dose? (or vice versa)

No. You cannot mix pharmaceuticals.

I received my 1<sup>st</sup> dose. How will I get my second dose?

Your vaccine card will have the date written down when should receive your second dose.

How will I schedule my appointment for the second dose?

You may come to the Health Department, or other facility offering the vaccine, to receive your second dose on or after the date indicated on your vaccine card.

Will you guarantee that I receive my second dose?

The vaccine is readily available in our community. You may come to the Health Department, or other facility offering the vaccine, to receive your second dose on or after the date indicated on your vaccine card.

What do I bring to receive the vaccine?

You **MUST** bring your ID. Please bring a blue or black pen to complete the registration form.