

COVID-19 Vaccine | Key Messages

Week of January 17, 2022

Family Vaccination Clinics

- CDPH is extending **family vaccination clinics at City Colleges of Chicago**. These events offer pediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines, as well as the Pfizer vaccine for those over 12, and booster doses to all eligible Chicagoans.
- All events operate 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Registration is required. Register at chicago.gov/COVIDvax or call the City's COVID-19 hotline at (312) 746-4835.
 - Saturday, January 22 – Richard J. Daley College, 7500 S Pulaski Rd.
 - Sunday, January 23 – Wilbur Wright College, 4300 N Narragansett Ave.
 - Saturday, January 29 – Kennedy-King College, 6301 S Halsted St.
 - Sunday, January 30 – Olive-Harvey College, 10001 S Woodlawn Ave.
 - Saturday, February 5 – Truman College, 1145 W Wilson Ave.
 - Sunday, February 6 – Malcolm X College, 1900 W Jackson Blvd.
 - Saturday, February 12 – Richard J. Daley College, 7500 S Pulaski Rd.
 - Sunday, February 13 – Wilbur Wright College, 4300 N Narragansett Ave.
 - Saturday, February 19 – Kennedy-King College, 6301 S Halsted St.
 - Sunday, February 20 – Olive-Harvey College, 10001 S Woodlawn Ave.
 - Saturday, February 26 – Truman College, 1145 W Wilson Ave.
 - Sunday, February 27 – Malcolm X College, 1900 W Jackson Blvd.

Updated Masks Guidance

- Masking is a critical public health tool for preventing spread of COVID-19, and it is important to remember that any mask is better than no mask.
- To protect yourself and others from COVID-19, CDC continues to recommend that you wear the most protective mask you can that fits well and that you will wear consistently.
- Masks are effective at reducing transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, when worn consistently and correctly.
- Some masks offer higher levels of protection than others, and some may be harder to tolerate or wear consistently than others. It is most important to [wear a well-fitted mask](#) correctly that is comfortable for you and that provides good protection.
 - While all masks provide some level of protection, properly fitted N95 and KN95 masks provide the highest level of protection. Wearing a highly protective mask may be most important for certain higher risk situations, or by some people at [increased risk for severe disease](#).
 - While all facial masks and coverings worn properly are effective at preventing spread, KN95 masks and other well-fitted masks offer better protection against the new highly contagious omicron variant.
- Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals over the age of 2 are encouraged to wear a mask. The City of Chicago mask mandate also remains in effect for all public indoor settings.
- The federal government will be distributing free nonsurgical N95 masks at community health centers and retail pharmacies. More details to be announced soon.

- The City of Chicago is distributing 1.5 million KN95 masks to Chicago residents through aldermanic offices and community groups to ensure that those most in need have access to KN95 masks within their own neighborhood or community.
 - Chicagoans who are interested in getting a KN95 mask should contact their aldermen or community leaders. We encourage everyone to reach out to their aldermanic office for additional details on when the masks will be available.
- While surgical masks and KN95 masks are intended for single use in clinical settings, when used as mitigation measures in community settings they may be reused for an extended period of time.
- Do not attempt to wash your KN95. To keep your KN95 clean between uses, you can store it in a dry paper bag. Discard if:
 - Soiled
 - Damaged
 - Becomes stretched out, no longer covers the nose and mouth, or cannot stay on your face
 - Is hard to breathe through
- Perform hand hygiene before putting on or taking off any mask or face covering
- KN95 are widely available from a variety of online and store retailers.
- For any mask, make sure it is well-fitted to your face.

Testing

- Levels of COVID-19 transmission in Chicago are currently very high. You should get tested for COVID-19 if you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, or if you have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- There are many thousand testing providers in Chicago – including healthcare providers, community health centers, pharmacies, outpatient clinics, and community-based testing sites as well as options to self-test at home which are increasingly used.
- The U.S. government is delivering free at-home rapid antigen tests to all residents via U.S. mail.
 - To order tests, go online to covidtests.gov and enter your name and mailing address. Be sure to include an apartment number if you live in an apartment.
 - Every household is eligible to receive 4 free at-home tests.
 - Orders are expected to ship in 7-12 days.
- CDPH offers free community-based testing in partnership with Rush University Medical Center and Esperanza Health Centers through its [Connect Chicago](#) program. Connect Chicago offers PCR tests and rapid tests on site and at home options for both, depending on availability.
- CDPH has expanded community-based testing in response to the Omicron surge. We have already opened one additional community-based testing site downtown and are in the process of establishing others.
 - The U.S. District Court and SHIELD Illinois offers free COVID-19 testing in the Dirksen Federal Building, supported by CDPH.
 - Site Details:
 - Dirksen U.S. Courthouse lobby, South entrance
 - 219 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago
 - Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Registration for this site is available at https://shieldillinoisportal.pointnclick.com/login_login.aspx. Use agency code: df5brbrj.

- The federal government also offer free COVID-19 testing in Chicago, including at all of the more than 150 federally qualified health centers and at more than 50 Walgreens pharmacies in the City.
- The Chicago Department of Public Health does not oversee or regulate testing operators. Healthcare providers and laboratories are regulated by state entities.
- If you believe the testing site you visited is not operating properly, you may file complaints on the attorney general's website: www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.
- For more information on COVID-19 testing visit chicago.gov/covidtest.

Isolation/Quarantine Guidance Updates

- Following CDC guidance, CDPH has updated isolation and quarantine protocols for the general public.
- If you **test positive** for COVID-19, you should **ISOLATE**.
 - Everyone, regardless of vaccination status should:
 - Stay home and isolate for 5 days
 - After 5 days, if your symptoms have resolved, you can leave your home, but you **MUST** continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days and avoid contact with high-risk people.
 - If you have a fever or are still feeling sick, continue to stay home until 24 hours after your fever resolves
- If you were **exposed to someone with COVID-19**, review the **QUARANTINE protocols**, which are different for those who are fully vaccinated and/or boosted, and for those who aren't.
 - If you are boosted or fully vaccinated but not yet eligible for a booster (this means you have received a booster, OR have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, OR received a J&J vaccine within the last 2 months), you do not need to quarantine. You should:
 - Wear a mask around others for 10 days
 - Test on day 5, if possible
 - If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home
 - If you are fully vaccinated and eligible for a booster but not boosted, partially vaccinated, or unvaccinated (this means you have completed the primary series of Pfizer over 5 months ago and haven't received a booster, OR completed the primary series of Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and haven't received a booster, OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine over 2 months ago and haven't received a booster, OR have received only one dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, OR have never been vaccinated against COVID-19), you should:
 - Stay home for 5 days.
 - After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
 - Test on day 5 if possible.
 - If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

Booster Doses

- All Chicagoans age 12 and older are encouraged to get their COVID-19 booster dose, especially seniors and people with underlying medical conditions who are at higher risk of severe complications.
 - Those who received a **J&J/Janssen vaccine**, should receive a booster dose at least **two months** after their initial dose.
 - Those who received a **Pfizer vaccine series**, should get a booster at least **five** months after completing the vaccine series.

- Those who received a **Moderna vaccine series**, should get a booster at least **five** months after completing the vaccine series.
- Individuals age 12 to 17 should receive a Pfizer booster. For individuals age 18 and older, Pfizer and Moderna are preferred over J&J for boosters.
- Additionally, consistent with their prior recommendation for adults, CDC now recommends that moderately or severely immunocompromised 5-to-11-year-olds receive an additional primary dose of vaccine 28 days after their second shot.
- While all three COVID-19 vaccines continue to be very effective in preventing hospitalization and death, booster doses provide extra protection against COVID-19. Booster doses do a good job of strengthening protection against COVID-19 that may have started to wane after initial vaccination.
- Chicagoans can get a booster dose at sites across the city – in hospitals, physicians' offices, local pharmacies, pop-up clinics hosted by the City, and more. For more information and to find your vaccine, go to [Chicago.gov/COVIDvax](https://chicago.gov/COVIDvax).
- Booster doses do not qualify for incentive programs, including the \$100 gift card promotion.