



# HELP WITH COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

If you are a person with a disability, family member or service provider and have questions about accessing the COVID-19 vaccine, Disability Rights NJ is here to help.

## You should contact Disability Rights NJ if you have questions or need assistance:

- Finding transportation to vaccination site
- Determining eligibility for the vaccine
- Finding a vaccine location near you
- You are unable to leave your home to receive the vaccine and need an in-home vaccination
- Requesting an accommodation at the vaccination sites
- Requesting a quiet area to wait at the vaccination sites
- Getting more information about the importance of being vaccinated
- Finding information regarding your local health department
- Addressing fears about the COVID-19 vaccine

If you or someone you know, needs assistance or has questions accessing the COVID-19 vaccine, contact Disability Rights New Jersey at

**1.800.922.7233**

**[advocate@disabilityrightsnj.org](mailto:advocate@disabilityrightsnj.org)**

**[www.disabilityrightsnj.org](http://www.disabilityrightsnj.org)**

If you would like a representative from Disability Right NJ to speak to you or your group about access to the COVID-19 vaccine, please contact:

**Denise Lugo-Fowler**

**Director of Training and Outreach**

**[dlugofowler@disabilityrightsnj.org](mailto:dlugofowler@disabilityrightsnj.org)**

Disability Rights New Jersey, a nonprofit organization, is New Jersey's designated Protection and Advocacy agency under federal law. We advance the human, civil, and legal rights of persons with disabilities and promote their self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration into all facets of community life.





# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

*Even during a national pandemic, Disability Rights NJ is fighting to ensure people with disabilities have the right to live, work, learn and access their community without discrimination or increased risks due to the COVID-19 virus.*

## Contact us if you:

- Know someone residing in a facility and the staff are not safeguarding from COVID-19 outbreak.
- Feel your child is not receiving essential educational services due to remote learning
- Did not receive appropriate accommodations to ensure full and equal opportunity to vote
- Encounter issue with visitation to a hospital or health facility for families of people with disabilities
- Encounter an issue with access to vaccine
- Have questions about your legal rights during the crisis
- Experience disability-related discrimination impacted by COVID-19
- Have difficulty receiving accessible information related to COVID-19
- Wish to speak to a staff member about a disability-related issue related to COVID-19



**If you encounter problems in any of the areas described above, or with other disability rights issues, please contact us at:**

**800-922-7233**

**[advocate@disabilityrightsnj.org](mailto:advocate@disabilityrightsnj.org)**

**[www.disabilityrightsnj.org](http://www.disabilityrightsnj.org)**

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### *COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination Information*

COVID-19 vaccination is a critical prevention measure to help end the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available in the United States, and CDC recommends all people 12 years and older be vaccinated against COVID-19. Three COVID-19 vaccines are currently authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use: two mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) and one adenoviral vector vaccine (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine). People are considered fully vaccinated if they are  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series (mRNA vaccines), or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen).

Public health recommendations for people fully vaccinated with authorized COVID-19 vaccines must consider evidence of vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19, as well as vaccine impact on SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Other individual and societal factors are also important when evaluating the benefits and potential harms of additional prevention measures among vaccinated individuals. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and CDC routinely consider factors such as population values, acceptability, and feasibility of implementation when making vaccine recommendations.<sup>1</sup> These factors were also considered when developing CDC's interim public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people.

#### Key Points:

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States are effective against COVID-19, including serious outcomes of severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
- Available evidence suggests the currently authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) are highly effective against hospitalization and death for a variety of strains, including Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351), Gamma (P.1), and Delta (B.1.617.2); data suggest lower effectiveness against confirmed infection and symptomatic disease caused by the Beta, Gamma, and Delta variants compared with the ancestral strain and Alpha variant. Ongoing monitoring of vaccine effectiveness against variants is needed.

### ***What is a variant?***

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Information about the characteristics of these variants is rapidly emerging. Scientists are working to learn more about how easily they spread, whether they could cause more severe illness, and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect people against them.

If you think about a virus like a tree growing and branching out; each branch on the tree is slightly different than the others. By comparing the branches, scientists can label them according to the differences. These small differences, or variants, have been studied and identified since the beginning of the pandemic.

Some variations allow the virus to spread more easily or make it resistant to treatments or vaccines. Those variants must be monitored more carefully.

**This information is provided by the CDC.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>



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## *DELTA VARIANT FAQ*

### *1. What is a variant?*

Viruses constantly change through mutation, allowing for new forms of a virus to occur. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear, other times, they may persist. Multiple variants of COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic. Sometimes these mutations allow the virus to spread more easily, resistant to treatments, or vaccines less effective.

### *2. What is the Delta variant?*

The Delta variant is now the most common COVID-19 variant in the United States. It is spread easier than other strains, especially in indoor settings and households. The first Delta case was identified in December 2020, and the variant soon became the predominant strain of the virus in both India and then Great Britain. By the end of July, Delta was the cause of more than 80% of new U.S. COVID-19 cases, according to CDC estimates.

### *3. Who is getting the Delta variant?*

The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates, and virtually all hospitalizations and deaths have been among the unvaccinated. However, some individuals who have been vaccinated have reported infections. According to the CDC, even people with “breakthrough cases” carry tremendous amounts of virus in their nose and throat, and, according to preliminary reports, can spread the virus to others even if they do not have symptoms.

### *4. Who is most at risk for contracting the Delta variant?*

People who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are most at risk. Kids and young people are a concern as well. “A recent study from the United Kingdom showed that children and adults under 50 were 2.5 times more likely to become infected with Delta.” And so far, no vaccine has been approved for children under 12 in the U.S.

### **5. *What is the best way to protect against the Delta variant?***

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself from Delta is to get fully vaccinated, If you get a two-dose vaccine like Pfizer or Moderna, you must get both shots and then wait the recommended two-week period for those shots to take full effect.

If you get the one dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you must still wait two weeks for it to take full effect. Whether or not you are vaccinated, it's also important to follow CDC prevention guidelines that are available for vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

### **6. *How effective are the vaccines against the Delta variant?***

Vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death, including against this variant. Fully vaccinated people with breakthrough infections from this variant appear to be infectious for a shorter period.

Some research suggests that the vaccines are not effective against preventing infection of the new COVID-19 variants, however they are extremely effective at preventing severe illness. After full vaccination, the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccine are 96% effective at preventing severe disease and hospitalization with the COVID-19 virus caused by the Delta variant. The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine is 85% effective at preventing severe disease with the COVID-19 virus caused by the delta variant.

### **7. *Why is it important to get vaccinated?***

Getting vaccinated protects yourself and others. The Delta variant has a heightened transmissibility, which allows the virus to spread quickly and easily. Additionally, it may cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated people. Getting vaccinated helps prevent infection, slow spread of COVID-19, and reduce the opportunity for the virus to further mutate into more harmful strains. New research also suggests that vaccines are more effective at providing immunity than a previous COVID-19 infection.

The U.S. is in a good position because of its relatively high vaccination rates. Conquering the Delta variant will take a race between vaccination rates and the variant. But if Delta keeps moving fast, multiplying infections in the U.S. could steepen an upward COVID-19 curve.

### **8. *How can I protect myself against COVID-19, and the Delta variant?***

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>, or contact Disability Rights NJ if you need further assistance.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available

(CDC, Yale Medicine, and Mayo Clinic)

# DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

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GWEN ORLOWSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## NEW JERSEY VACCINATION INFORMATION

- NJ's Dept. of Health Vaccine Page <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>
- Information on NJ's Vaccination Page [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_vaccination.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml)
- NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness has a rumor control page at <https://www.njhomelandsecurity.gov/covid19> and highlight misinformation at [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d79f88e4b0db3478a04405/t/5fd3895c61e42a1f6cbbe244/1607698784556/COVID-19+Vaccine+Disinformation\\_%2812-10-2020%29.png](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d79f88e4b0db3478a04405/t/5fd3895c61e42a1f6cbbe244/1607698784556/COVID-19+Vaccine+Disinformation_%2812-10-2020%29.png)
- Undocumented can get the vaccine <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/testing-and-treatment/can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine-if-i-am-undocumented>
- Information on vaccinations and support for homebound persons, senior citizens, transportation to appointments, and NJ Transit VAXRIDE program. Information is being shared through many venues throughout the State including NJ211 Partnership [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org) and others.
- NJ Homebound Vaccination number **855-568-0545**/ Senior Citizen Hotline **856-249-7007**/ Transportation to appointments under Medicaid **866-527-9933**
- More information on the NJ Transit VAXRIDE initiative can be found here <https://www.njtransit.com/vaxride>
- Partnership with NJ United Way for free or discounted rides to vaccination sites wherever Lyft services are available. Information can be found through NJ211/ call 2-1-1 or visit [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org)
- <https://www.nj211.org/transportation-options-new-jersey#:~:text=New%20Jersey%20Transit%20has%20launched,appointments%20to%20all%20eligible%20riders.&text=If%20you%20need%20assistance%20with,at%20973%2D275%2D5555>
- Mental Health is critical during this pandemic. NJ's Hope and Healing Team has a Crisis Counseling Line available daily from 8a to 8p at **866-202-HELP (4357)** or Text NJHOPE to 51684
- NJ Dept. of Health VAX Matters page <https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/VaxMatters.pdf>
- NJ's Long Term Care COVID resource page <https://www.nj.gov/health/ltc/>

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## Program Background

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- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides supplemental funding for programs and a vast array of resources to assist people with disabilities to continue living independently in their communities across the U.S.
- Centers for Independent Living received funds to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities to assist with overcoming barriers encountered as a result of the pandemic.

DAWN Center for Independent Living provides support to persons with disabilities throughout their lifespan so they can achieve their highest level of independence in their community.

DAWNCil's comprehensive services are a critical part of the support network that enables people with disabilities residing in Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties to live independently in their communities.

### Contact Information

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66 Ford Road  
Suite 121  
Denville, NJ 07834

Phone: (973) 625-1940  
Toll Free: (888) 383-DAWN  
Fax: (973) 625-1942  
E-mail: [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org)  
Web: [www.dawncil.org](http://www.dawncil.org)

Connect with us on Social Media:



Coronavirus Aid, Relief,  
and Economic Security  
Act

**CARES ACT**  
**Financial**  
**Assistance**  
**Program**

Consumer Information  
and Eligibility Brochure

## Eligible for residents of Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties

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The CARES Act funding is a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the request for assistance must be directly related to the pandemic.

Those who are interested must:

- complete an application stating need, and
- describe how the request is related to COVID-19, and
- provide verification of no other source of funding, and
- explain sustainability post assistance.

Requests must ensure costs are reasonable and DAWNcil has the right to find a comparable replacement. Upon completion, the application is to be returned to the office of DAWNcil for review.

## Funds can be used for assistance with:

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- Technology
  - Food
  - Essential Household Supplies
  - Personal Care Items
  - Housing Assistance
  - Transportation Assistance
  - Prescriptions
  - Durable Medical Equipment
  - Personal Care Attendants
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
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This program is effective January 20, 2020 through September 30, 2021 or until funds are expended.

## Required Documentation:

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- An application must be completed by consumer or caregiver. **Staff assistance is available if necessary.**
- The following supportive documents are required when applying:
  - A doctor's note or assessment may be required.
  - 3 comparable prices for the product or service requested, if necessary.
  - Verification that no other source of funding is available.
  - Verification of sustainability after assistance, if applicable.
  - A signed Independent Living Plan .
  - Signed authorization for Release of Information.

Upon authorization, funds will be distributed directly to the vendor providing the product or service. A signed acknowledgement form from the consumer will be required upon receipt.