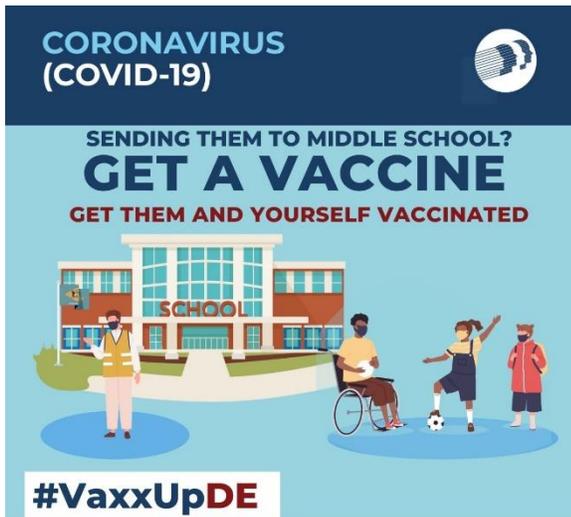


The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

August 2021



de.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 vaccination available to students, families, and staff age 12+ at four schools on August 19

Delaware's Division of Public Health (DPH), Department of Education (DOE), and school districts are partnering with Albertsons to offer free walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations.

On August 19, 2021, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., students 12 and older, their families, staff, and community members can receive their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine from Albertsons' pharmacists at one of four events statewide. Those vaccinated need to return on September 9, 2021 between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to receive their second dose.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Pre-register by clicking on any of these four locations:

- [Howard High School of Technology](#)
401 E. 12th St., Wilmington, DE 19801
- [William Penn High School](#)
713 E. Basin Rd., New Castle, DE 19720
- [Lake Forest Central Elementary School](#)
5424 Killens Pond Rd., Felton, DE 19943
- [Seaford Middle School](#)
500 E Stein Highway, Seaford, DE 19973

Only COVID-19 vaccination will be offered. Children under 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian need their written consent.

Submit COVID-19 vaccination questions to education.covidvaccine@doe.k12.de.us.

Face masks required for K-12 schools and child care homes and centers

Effective August 16, 2021, face coverings are required for those Kindergarten age and older, in K-12 schools, child care homes and centers, and state offices and facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Governor John Carney announced the requirement on August 10.

"There's no higher priority than getting all Delaware children back in their classrooms full-time this fall," said Governor Carney. "This consistent, statewide approach will help students, educators and staff return to school safely and without disruption." The requirement covers public and private schools in Delaware.



Child care centers and homes are strongly encouraged to require masks for children 2 years old to kindergarten age inside their facilities to prevent spread of COVID-19. Due to the risk of suffocation, masks must not be worn by children younger than 2 years.

K-12 schools and early learning centers to get free rapid COVID-19 antigen tests

On July 19, the Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) announced a \$15 million partnership with the Quidel Corporation to provide rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 in all Delaware schools and early learning facilities. On-the-spot results will be available within 10 minutes. The service is free to schools and staff.

With parental permission, Quidel staff will conduct on-site testing, analyze results, and report them to families and the State, taking the burden off schools. Routine screening testing is a key strategy recommended by the CDC and re-enforced in its recent guidance for schools and child care facilities.

"This program allows schools the best of both worlds, being able to identify potential cases early while continuing to focus on the business of learning," said DPH Chief Physician Dr. Rick Pescatore.

To learn more about the program, visit: <https://www.dhsscovidsschooltest.com>. Send medically related questions regarding testing, symptoms, and health-related guidance to DPHCall@delaware.gov.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

State announces COVID-19 testing recommendations for unvaccinated persons and updates to testing program

With COVID-19 cases increasing in the state and nation, and the majority of cases occurring among unvaccinated individuals, Governor John Carney, the Division of Public Health (DPH), and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) echo the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) urgent call to increase vaccinations nationwide. All Delawareans 12 years old and older are urged to [get vaccinated](#) if they have not already received their COVID-19 vaccine.

DPH recommends that unvaccinated people:

- Get tested once a week.
- Get tested 5-7 days after being exposed to someone with COVID.
- Isolate at home immediately if unvaccinated and develop symptoms of COVID-19, and quarantine at home immediately if exposed to someone with COVID-19.

The CDC recommends [fully vaccinated persons get tested 3-5 days after being exposed to someone with COVID](#). Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after exposure.

The CDC also recommends that anyone with any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 [get tested](#), regardless of vaccination status or prior infection.

"With COVID-19 cases climbing daily, it is very important that you get tested weekly if you are not vaccinated in order to identify and stop the spread of COVID," said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay. That will help DPH identify infection among people with no symptoms and allow them to take steps to ensure they are not unknowingly spreading the disease.

A list of testing locations and options, including fixed, static, and rotating sites, is at [de.gov/gettested](#). At-home testing is offered free of charge through a partnership with [Vault Health](#), as well as a new partnership with [LabCorp](#) which supports testing for symptomatic or high-risk individuals. A new partnership with Delaware Libraries allows Delawareans to pick up a take-home rapid test kit at most [library locations](#).



#COVIDVaccineDE

COVID-19 Testing Options

Fixed Locations: At pharmacies, including 30 Walgreens, Rite-Aid, and Health Mart pharmacies through a federal program focused on areas of high social vulnerability. Testing at state-run and federal program sites is free. Other sites may charge; contact the site for details.

DPH static vaccination sites:

Georgetown Plaza Shopping Center

19 Georgetown Plaza, Georgetown, DE 19947 (At U.S. 113 and U.S. 9 intersection)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday/Thursday – 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Blue Hen Corporate Center in Dover

655 S. Bay Road, Suite 1A, Dover, DE 19901 (Office is located in the rear of building near the WIC entrance)
Monday-Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oxford/University Plaza in Newark

256 Chapman Road, Suite 100, Newark, DE 19702 (Located in the Oxford Building of University Plaza)
Monday-Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canby Park in Wilmington

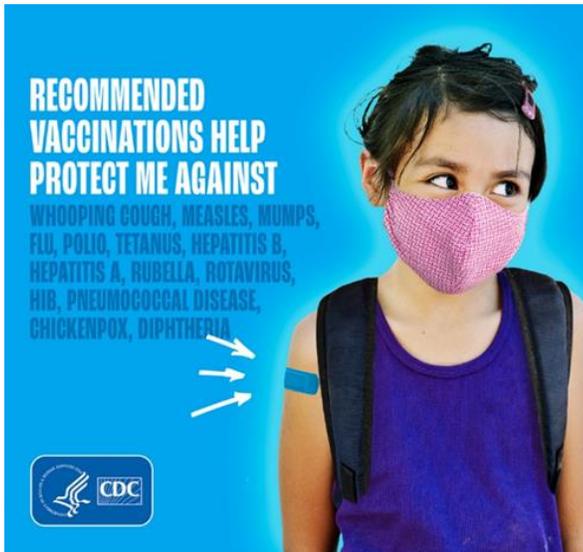
1946 Maryland Ave., Wilmington, DE 19805 (Located in the Elizabeth Shopping Mall)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday/Thursday – 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Community Locations: The State continues its partnership with Curative to bring testing to local residents.

At-Home Testing: Several options are available including take home test kits at Delaware Libraries (except Greenwood).

School-based testing: Free rapid antigen testing offered to all schools and early learning facilities for students and staff.

Visit [de.gov/gettested](#) for the full list.



All vaccinations should be up-to-date

The Division of Public Health (DPH) reminds parents and guardians that children’s vaccinations should be current prior to the start of school. Vaccines protect children against serious diseases such as measles, varicella (chicken pox), and pertussis (whooping cough).

Preteens and teens need four vaccines to protect against serious diseases: meningococcal conjugate vaccine to protect against meningitis and bloodstream infections; HPV vaccine to protect against cancers caused by HPV; Tdap vaccine to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough; and a yearly flu vaccine to protect against seasonal flu.

“Parents and guardians have the power to protect their children from these serious diseases,” said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay. “When scheduling back-to-school wellness visits, ask for children ages 12 and older to get vaccinated for COVID-19 at the same time they receive their other needed vaccinations.”

To determine which vaccines children need, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a parent-friendly immunization schedule: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/schedules/index.html>.

Individuals who received immunizations in Delaware can access their official immunization records by visiting the DelVAX Public Access Portal: https://delvax.dhss.delaware.gov/delvax_public/Application/PublicPortal. First read the instructions at: <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/ipp/portalflyer.pdf>. If users have any questions or concerns, they should contact the Delaware Immunization Program at 800-282-8672 or DelVAX@delaware.gov. After hours and on weekends responses may be delayed 24-48 hours.

City of Wilmington commends DPH contact tracer for COVID-19 efforts

For 30 years, Ubaldo “Carlos” Valles has operated his business, Bloomsberry Flowers, in Wilmington. Then orders sharply fell off due to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The florist had to find a new way to pay his mortgage.

Valles, 52, applied for a contact tracer position with the Division of Public Health (DPH). He began working under contract as a Senior Social Worker/field investigator in July 2020.

Valles embraced his new job with enthusiasm, encouraging residents to be tested, then vaccinated; and to practice safety measures. He reached out to City of Wilmington Councilwoman Yolanda M. McCoy and her peers to offer to provide community education about COVID-19 prevention. He sent McCoy suggested testing sites and items for her to share during virtual meetings, and publicized testing and vaccination opportunities at community events.

McCoy showed her gratitude for Valles’ hard work, especially in the 6th District with minority communities, by sponsoring a City Council tribute.



Ubaldo “Carlos” Valles

The tribute reads in part: “His dedication to his community and the selfless acts that he has portrayed throughout his time in this community, especially during this pandemic, is truly admirable and deserving of recognition.”

“It is a good feeling when I can help those who only speak Spanish,” Valles said. “The appreciation they give you is worth what I do. It’s fulfilling.”

He continues his work as a florist on the weekends for businesses and weddings.



Thoroughly cook shellfish and wade cautiously to avoid *Vibrio* bacteria

Vibrio bacteria naturally live in saltwater and brackish waters, a mixture of fresh water and saltwater. About a dozen *Vibrio* species can cause human illness, known as vibriosis. These bacteria are present in higher concentrations between May and October when water temperatures are warmer. In Delaware, the Division of Public Health (DPH) reported 14 cases of *Vibrio* between May 1 and October 31, 2020.

Eating raw or undercooked shellfish, especially oysters, can put people at risk for vibriosis infections. Of the 80,000 vibriosis cases reported each year in the United States, an estimated 52,000 cases are caused by eating contaminated food, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Vibriosis symptoms are watery diarrhea, abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, fever, and chills and usually occur within 24 hours of ingesting raw or undercooked shellfish (particularly oysters). Symptoms last about three days. Immediately consult with a primary care provider if you suspect vibriosis.

People may also become infected with vibriosis through a skin infection. Those with open wounds (including from a recent surgery, piercing, or tattoo) and weakened immune systems should avoid swimming or wading in saltwater or brackish water. Wear protective clothes and shoes when in saltwater or brackish water. Serious infections can result in intensive care or even limb amputation.

Prevent vibriosis by cooking oysters and other shellfish properly before eating. Keep raw and cooked shellfish and their juices separate. Wear protective gloves when shucking raw oysters, clams, or mussels, or while handling other shellfish, and wash hands afterward.

For more information, visit the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/vibrio/faq.html>.

Diabetes report recommends registry, increasing access to programs

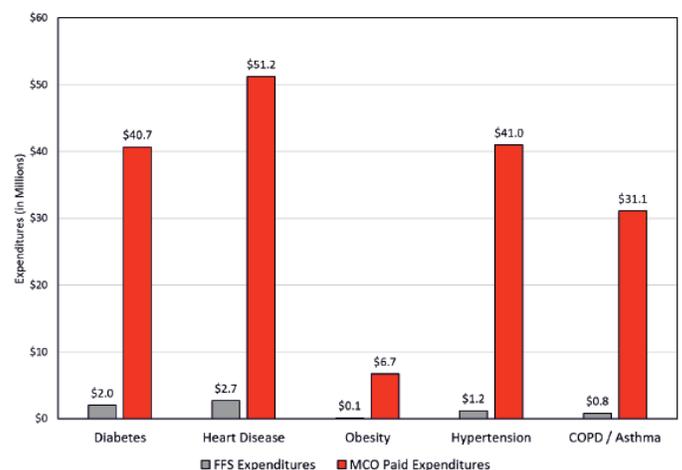
The Impact of Diabetes in Delaware, 2021 report was recently produced by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health (DPH) and Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance, and the Department of Human Resources' Statewide Benefits Office.

To monitor diabetes management and reduce disparities in health outcomes among Delawareans with the chronic disease, the agencies recommended the development of a statewide Delaware Diabetes Registry to the Delaware General Assembly. Another recommendation is to increase in-person and online access to, and participation in, Diabetes Self-Management Education for adults.

In Delaware, more than 98,700 adults are diagnosed with diabetes, which is treatable with healthy lifestyle behaviors and a medication regimen to control blood glucose levels. As many as 25,000 adults may be living with undiagnosed diabetes, the report says. Prevention, early diagnosis, and effective self-management can avert and reduce costly outcomes such as heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness, and death.

Read the report at <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/files/diabetesburdenreport2021.pdf>. For diabetes resources, contact DPH's Diabetes and Heart Disease Prevention and Control Program at 302-744-1020 or <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/diabetes.html>.

Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Organization (MCO) Paid Expenditures in Millions by Chronic Disease, State of Delaware, Fiscal Year 2020



Source: The Impact of Diabetes in Delaware, 2021 report.