

# OC HEALTH CARE AGENCY (HCA) COVID-19 MESSAGES

UPDATED: 10/14/21

## TODAY'S KEY MESSAGES

1. All COVID-19 vaccine providers are still awaiting final recommendations on additional booster options from the FDA, CDC, Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, and the California Department of Public Health. Recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are advised to patiently wait for further guidance.
2. According to the CDC, there is currently limited information on the effectiveness of receiving your second COVID-19 shot of a two-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) later than 6 weeks after the first shot. However, if you receive your second shot at any time after the recommended date, you do not have to restart the vaccine series and you can be considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after getting your second shot.
3. All residents over the age of six months are encouraged to get vaccinated against influenza, also known as the seasonal flu. According to the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics, flu vaccines can be safely co-administered with COVID-19 vaccines for both eligible children and adults. For more information on flu shots in Orange County, visit [ochealthinfo.com/flu](https://ochealthinfo.com/flu).

## MESSAGES BY TOPIC

- Where to Get a Vaccine
- Flu Vaccine
- Monoclonal Antibody Treatment
- Booster Doses vs. Third Doses for Immunocompromised
- Rumors/Misinformation
- Hosting Clinics (Vaccine Equity Engagement Program)
- State Public Health Orders
- Mask Guidance
- Variants
- Testing
- Accommodations
- General Vaccine Information
- Vaccination Records
- Public Hotline

## WHERE TO GET A VACCINE

- As the OC Health Care Agency focuses on delivering vaccines to our most vulnerable population and hard-to-reach communities, individuals who have not yet received their initial vaccine series are encouraged to visit any local pharmacy or healthcare provider, or go online to [Vaccines.gov](https://Vaccines.gov), [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://MyTurn.ca.gov) or [Othena.com](https://Othena.com), to schedule a vaccination appointment. For more details, visit [ococovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccine-distribution-channels](https://ococovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccine-distribution-channels).

## FLU VACCINE

- As fall season begins, all residents over the age of six months are encouraged to get vaccinated against influenza, also known as the seasonal flu.
  - According to the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics, influenza vaccines can be safely co-administered with COVID-19 vaccines for both eligible children and adults.
  - For more information on flu shots in Orange County, visit [ochealthinfo.com/flu](https://ochealthinfo.com/flu).
  - The HCA will be offering the flu vaccine at three locations between October 18-November 5 to adults and children age 3 and over. Those locations include:
    - 1. County of Orange Social Services Agency's Santa Ana Regional Office (Santa Ana)
    - 2. St. Anthony Mary Claret Church (Anaheim)
    - 3. Orange Coast College (Costa Mesa)
    - The COVID-19 vaccine will also be available at these sites for eligible individuals.
    - Eligible residents can register for an appointment at any of the three clinics listed above by visiting [www.Othena.com](https://www.Othena.com).
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## MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT

- Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that can be given as treatment to aid the immune system's ability to prevent or minimize infections by germs such as viruses.
  - The FDA recently issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the REGEN-COV monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 in patients with mild to moderate symptoms that are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization. The FDA also authorized its use to prevent disease in people who have been exposed to the virus who have not yet developed symptoms but are at high risk for severe COVID-19.
  - According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), due to logistical constraints and shortages, monoclonal antibodies are being prioritized for the treatment of COVID-19 over the prevention (post-exposure prophylaxis) of COVID-19 infection. Furthermore, the following groups are prioritized over vaccinated individuals who are expected to have mounted an adequate immune response:
    - Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated individuals who are at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19
    - Vaccinated individuals who are not expected to mount an adequate immune response (e.g., immunocompromised individuals).
  - Monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19 are now in extremely limited supply to a small number of hospitals throughout Orange County for the treatment of high-risk COVID cases.
    - Providers and sites who previously were administering treatments in outpatient settings or hospitals may no longer have this treatment readily available for patients.
    - Prior to the shortage in supply, individuals interested in finding a provider/site were directed to the Health and Human Services website (<https://protect-public.hhs.gov/pages/therapeutics-distribution>) or call center (877-332-6585)
      - This website is no longer updated with practices/hospitals that have supply, since distribution of limited supplies are now assessed on a weekly basis.
      - While sites may still be listed on this website, patients/providers cannot expect these providers to have monoclonal antibody treatments.
  - Monoclonal antibody treatment is not a substitute for vaccination against COVID-19 and is not authorized for use in hospitalized patients. The most effective way to prevent COVID-19 is to get vaccinated.
  - For more information about monoclonal antibody therapy, visit <https://ocovid19.ochealthinfo.com/monoclonal-antibody-therapy>
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## BOOSTER DOSES VS. THIRD DOSES FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

### BOOSTER DOSES:

- The Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine has been authorized for booster doses to be administered to certain populations, 6 months or more after their initial vaccine series:
  - People previously vaccinated with Pfizer who SHOULD receive a booster include those who are:
    - Age 65 years and older;
    - Long term care residents; and
    - Age 50 through 64 years with underlying medical conditions or at increased risk of social inequities (including communities of color and others at risk of inequities).
  - People who MAY CONSIDER receiving a booster based on their individual benefits and risks include those who are:
    - Age 18 through 49 years with underlying medical conditions; and
    - Age 18 through 64 who are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to their occupation or institutional setting.
- The Moderna and J&J vaccines have not been authorized for booster doses.
  - The FDA will be meeting October 14-15 to discuss data on booster doses of Moderna and J&J, and data on the use of a booster of a different vaccine than the one used for the primary series of an authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine (heterologous or "mix and match" booster). The OC Health Care Agency will follow the State's recommendations and guidance as changes in booster eligibility are authorized.
  - All COVID-19 vaccine providers are still awaiting final recommendations on additional booster options from the FDA, CDC, Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, and the California Department of Public Health. Recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are advised to patiently wait for further guidance.
- Those at highest risk of hospitalization or death need to be prioritized for booster doses.
- For more information on who should receive a booster dose, please visit [cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Pfizer-COVID-19-Vaccine-Boosters.aspx](https://cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Pfizer-COVID-19-Vaccine-Boosters.aspx)

### THIRD DOSES FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED:

- Currently, the third dose of mRNA vaccines are being offered to individuals ages 18 years and older (Moderna), and 12 years and older (Pfizer), with moderate to severe immunocompromised conditions. This includes:
  - Receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
  - Receiving an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
  - Receiving a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
  - Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
  - Advanced or untreated HIV infection
  - Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
- Immunocompromised individuals can receive their third dose at least 28 days after receiving the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna.
- People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition and whether getting a third dose is appropriate for them.
- An additional vaccine dose is not currently recommended by the CDC for immunocompromised persons who received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine.

### BOOSTER DOSES VS. THIRD DOSES FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED:

- The booster dose should not be confused with the third dose for immunocompromised:
  - A **third (or additional) dose** is one additional mRNA injection (Moderna or Pfizer) given to ensure adequate primary response to COVID-19 vaccination in people who are moderately to severely immune compromised and may not be adequately protected by their initial two-dose series. (More info:

(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/ThirdVaccineDoseQandA.aspx>)

- A **booster dose** is administered in response to waning immunity over time, which Pfizer's reported data indicates may exist in individuals who completed the initial series of the Pfizer vaccine. None of the other COVID-19 vaccines (Moderna and J&J) are currently authorized for booster doses. (More info: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>.)
  - For FAQs on third vs. booster doses, please visit [occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccine-faqs-0](https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccine-faqs-0).
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## RUMORS/MISINFORMATION

- On August 26, the CDC issued a health advisory against the use of a prescription medication called ivermectin, normally used to treat certain infections caused by internal and external parasites, for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Currently, ivermectin has not been proven as a way to prevent or treat COVID-19.
  - The CDC offers strategies for sharing accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines, responding to gaps in information, and confronting misinformation with evidence-based messaging from credible sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-departments/addressing-vaccine-misinformation.html>
  - The WHO offers ways to report misinformation online or through social media: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/connecting-the-world-to-combat-coronavirus/how-to-report-misinformation-online>
  - If you see or hear something confusing about the COVID-19 vaccine, email the CDPH at [rumors@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:rumors@cdph.ca.gov) for further investigation. More information: [https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/sites/virus/files/2021-05/CDPH\\_Trust\\_and\\_Safety\\_Team.pdf](https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/sites/virus/files/2021-05/CDPH_Trust_and_Safety_Team.pdf)
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## HOSTING CLINICS (VACCINE EQUITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM)

- Provides opportunity for non-profit organizations interested in hosting a vaccination clinic, in partnership with the OC Health Care Agency, to earn a coordination fee of \$20 for every individual who receives either the first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (with a preferred minimum of 50 individuals registered).
  - The program's \$4.5 million in funding is made available from the State of California's Government Operations Agency.
  - The County has entered into an agreement with Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies (MECCA) to act as a third-party administrator (TPA) to distribute awards. HCA will confirm the amount earned for vaccine administration activities performed between May 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 and organizations will be notified via email of the expected payment for their coordination efforts.
  - Interested organizations will be able to sign up to participate in this program and host vaccine clinics in partnership with the HCA through the Mobile Vaccine Service feature on the Othena platform, or by visiting <https://othena.com/mobilevaccineservice>.
  - Organizations will receive a media resource kit which includes flyer templates, digital graphics, sample messages and videos to share with community members.
  - For more information about the Vaccine Equity Engagement Program, including qualifications, primary exclusions, and FAQs, visit: <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/vaccine-equity-engagement-program>
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## STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

- **October 1:** California Governor Gavin Newsom announced plans to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of vaccinations required to attend school in-person when the vaccine receives full approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for middle and high school grades. - <https://tinyurl.com/3fccw8t6>
    - The in-school vaccine requirement is dependent on the FDA's full approval. There is no immediate action at this time.
  - **September 28:** Workers in adult and senior care facilities, as well as workers providing services in a recipient's home, must have their first dose of a one-dose regimen, or their second dose of a two-dose regimen, by November 30, 2021 with limited exemptions. - <https://tinyurl.com/3fwvwpds>
  - Parents can visit the State's Safe Schools for All Hub at [schools.covid19.ca.gov](https://schools.covid19.ca.gov) to find key resources and information related to COVID-19 and schools, including a parent portal as well as answers to frequently asked questions about K-12 school guidance.
  - **September 1:** CDPH issues guidance for K-12 schools - <https://tinyurl.com/3brzk7th>
    - Masks are required for all persons playing indoor sports on school campuses and required for all unvaccinated persons in all community indoor sports settings, unless wearing a mask during play has been determined to pose a choking hazard.
  - **August 24:** COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People - <https://tinyurl.com/2csdrskz>
  - **August 23:** CDPH issues letter to school leaders advising that universal masking indoors in K-12 settings (both public and private schools) are mandatory with limited exemptions as specified in the State's Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings. - <https://tinyurl.com/cnt2pkfk>
  - **August 19:** Workers in local correctional facilities and detention centers must be fully vaccinated by October 14 - <https://tinyurl.com/b5h5t9wr>
  - **August 18:** Verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result is required of all attendees at Indoor Mega Events involving 1,000 or more participants. Indoor venue and event operators may not use self-attestation as a mode of verification - <https://tinyurl.com/5jrcz2wc>
  - **August 11:** All public/private schools serving students in transitional kindergarten through grade 12 must verify vaccine status of all workers (does not apply to home schools, childcare or higher education) - <https://tinyurl.com/4cpbh395>
  - **August 5:** Workers in health care settings must be fully vaccinated or receive 2nd dose by 9/30/21 - <https://tinyurl.com/h744pnc8>
    - County of Orange Health Officer also issued revised Health Order on August 17 which includes strong recommendation for all Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Home Healthcare Providers (including In-Home Supportive Services Program workers) to be fully vaccinated by September 30, 2021, and to undergo at least twice weekly testing for COVID-19 until such time as they are fully vaccinated - <https://tinyurl.com/29x6hy8r>
  - **August 5:** Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and intermediate care facilities to verify visitors are fully vaccinated or tested negative for COVID-19 in prior 72 hours before indoor visits - <https://tinyurl.com/f7x9h6kj>
  - **July 28:** See "Mask Guidance" section below
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## MASK GUIDANCE

- The OC Health Care Agency advises all residents to refer to the CDPH's guidance regarding masks.
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated its Guidance for Face Coverings, in response to new CDC guidance recommending mask use for public indoor settings to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the delta variant.
- Effective July 28, 2021, masks are required for all individuals in the following indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status:

- On public transit (examples: airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares) and in transportation hubs (examples: airport, bus terminal, marina, train station, seaport or other port, subway station, or any other area that provides transportation)
  - Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare
  - Emergency shelters and cooling centers
  - Healthcare settings
  - State and local correctional facilities and detention centers
  - Congregate settings such as homeless shelters
  - Long Term Care Settings & Adult and Senior Care Facilities
  - Masks are required for unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and businesses (examples: retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings, state and local government offices serving the public).
  - In settings where masks are required only for unvaccinated individuals, businesses, venue operators or hosts may choose to:
    - Provide information to all patrons, guests and attendees regarding vaccination requirements and allow vaccinated individuals to self-attest that they are in compliance prior to entry.
    - Implement vaccine verification to determine whether individuals are required to wear a mask.
    - Require all patrons to wear masks.
  - For complete information and FAQs on the State's current mask guidance, visit <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>
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## VARIANTS

- Variant cases in Orange County can be tracked on the COVID-19 Dashboard, which is available at [occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc](https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc).
- On August 30, the World Health Organization announced the monitoring of a new coronavirus variant called "Mu," which was first identified in Columbia in January but has since been confirmed in at least 43 countries.
  - There have been only 14 reported cases in Orange County, and the CDC has reported that the Mu Variant is currently not an immediate threat in the U.S.
- The OC Health Care recently published a new fact sheet on the Delta Variant in multiple languages. To view or download the fact sheet and other vaccine education resources, visit the COVID-19 Education Toolkit webpage at <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/article/covid-19-education-toolkit>
- According to the CDPH, viruses constantly change through mutations that create new versions of the virus called "variants."
- Variants are determined by their genetic sequences.
  - Scientists use a process called genomic sequencing to decode the genes and learn more about the virus.
  - Genomic sequencing allows scientists to identify SARS-CoV-2 and monitor how it changes over time into new variants.
- If a variant is thought to be more contagious or likely to cause greater illness or severe disease, or may impact treatment or vaccine response, then it is considered a variant of concern.
- The Delta Variant is the version of the virus that is now the dominant COVID-19 variant seen in the United States. It has a change in its virus structure that makes it easier to infect people compared to other variants.
- The Delta variant has a change in its virus structure that makes it easier to infect people compared to previous COVID-19 variants. In other words, it spreads twice as easily between people and may cause more severe illness.
- In July 2021, the Delta variant made up over 80% of SARS-CoV-2-positive specimens sequenced in California.

- Delta symptoms are not very different from other versions of the virus; however, they may cause people to get sick faster. Symptoms can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.
  - Unvaccinated people are at higher risk of becoming infected with the Delta Variant and getting sick or hospitalized.
  - According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are effective against severe disease and death from variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 currently circulating in the United States, including the Delta variant.
  - Individuals who are fully vaccinated are much less likely to become infected and spread the virus to others; those who are vaccinated and do get COVID-19 are much less likely to have severe disease. Vaccinated people in close contact with others who are at higher risk (immunocompromised, unvaccinated) or who are high-risk themselves should take further precautions.
  - With the highly contagious Delta variants in circulation, everyone aged 12 and up without a medical exemption is encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.
  - For more information on variants in California, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>
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## TESTING

- Individuals who experience COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19 are encouraged to get tested, regardless of their vaccination status.
  - Individuals who live in Orange County should first call their health care provider for a COVID-19 test. If you have health insurance and need help finding your health care provider, call the customer service number on your insurance card, or view websites of major health care providers in Orange County.
  - Self-collection, at-home COVID-19 test kits can be ordered at no cost by visiting [www.ochealthinfo.com/covidtest](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/covidtest)
  - More information on COVID-19 testing can be found at <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing>
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## ACCOMMODATIONS

- Individuals who need ADA accommodation at a County POD site can make a request to a staff member at the time of their appointment.
- Individuals who need a ride to a County POD site can call the OC COVID-19 Hotline at (714) 834-2000 to schedule an appointment for transportation assistance through AgeWell or Abrazar.
  - The Othena platform offers a new feature for any eligible individual who has scheduled a vaccination appointment to request free roundtrip rides to their appointment. They can log in to the [www.Othena.com](http://www.Othena.com) website or smartphone app to request a ride to their appointment (residents are encouraged to request rides 3-5 days in advance and rides are subject to availability).
  - For additional information on free or discounted rides to vaccination appointments, please visit [Lyft](https://www.lyft.com) or [Uber](https://www.uber.com) websites.
- Individuals who are homebound and need assistance with scheduling an in-home vaccination are encouraged to check with their primary health care provider first. Those who cannot be accommodated through a traditional health care system can call the OC COVID-19 Hotline at (714) 834-2000 for an at-home COVID-19 vaccination through the HCA if they are:
  - Only able to be transported by ambulance and stretcher; and/or
  - On a ventilator; and/or
  - Have severe behavioral challenges and cannot leave the home
- An American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter is available at the Brookhurst Community Center POD (2271 Crescent Avenue, Anaheim) on Mondays in June and July from 4 – 6:45 p.m.

## GENERAL VACCINE INFORMATION

### VACCINE AVAILABILITY:

- COVID-19 vaccines are widely available throughout Orange County for walk-in, same day, and future appointments. Individuals who are not yet vaccinated or are interested in receiving a booster dose are encouraged to visit any local pharmacy or healthcare provider, or go online to Vaccines.gov, MyTurn.ca.gov or Othena.com, to schedule a vaccination appointment.

### VACCINE ELIGIBILITY:

- The COVID-19 vaccine is free and widely available to everyone age 12 and older throughout Orange County (OC). The following vaccines are currently available:
  - Pfizer (two doses): FDA-approved for individuals age 16 and older, emergency use authorized for minors 12-15
  - Moderna (two doses): emergency use authorized for individuals age 18 and older
  - Johnson & Johnson (J&J – one dose): emergency use authorized for individuals age 18 and older
- **The FDA is planning to meet on October 26 to discuss data on the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11. The OC Health Care Agency will follow the State's recommendations and guidance as changes in vaccine eligibility are authorized.**
- You do not need to live or work in OC to receive a vaccine (proof of residency/employment is not required).
- Immigration status and medical insurance are not required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. (If you have insurance, the plan information will be collected for administration purposes. Medical information is protected by law.)

### VACCINE EDUCATION TOOLKIT:

- The HCA's new Vaccine Education Toolkit contains ready-to-use tools and resources that can be shared in the community and on social media to communicate information about the COVID-19 vaccine: <https://occcovid19.ochealthinfo.com/article/covid-19-education-toolkit>

### SIDE EFFECTS:

- Some individuals may experience minor side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. Common side effects can include pain or swelling on the arm as well as fever, chills, fatigue and headaches. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but should go away in a few days.

### PREPARATION FOR VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS:

- For general information on how to prepare for your vaccination appointment, visit the "Distribution Plan" section of [www.COVIDVaccineFacts.com](http://www.COVIDVaccineFacts.com).
- Minors ages 12 and older who are receiving a vaccine at a County POD site must be accompanied by their Parent/Legal Guardian, provide picture ID and proof of age.
- If an individual is not able to provide an item because of extenuating circumstances, the vaccination team will do their best to accommodate all persons requesting a vaccine as long as the person is in the authorized age group for the specific vaccine being administered.
- The average vaccination appointment takes less than an hour, including 15 minutes of observation after receiving the vaccine.

### SECOND DOSE:

- For vaccines requiring a second dose (Pfizer and Moderna), the second dose:
  - Should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible (21 days for Pfizer and 28 days for Moderna).
  - Must be the same vaccine type as the first (e.g. both first and second dose should be Moderna or Pfizer vaccine).
  - **There is currently limited information on the effectiveness of receiving your second shot later than 6 weeks after the first shot. However, if you receive your second shot at any**

time after the recommended date, you do not have to restart the vaccine series and you can be considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after getting your second shot.  
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>)

### **CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS (from CDC):**

- If you have received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or is listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO), then you are considered to be fully vaccinated. This currently includes the following vaccines:
  - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine – FDA-authorized, (labeled as COMIRNATY in European Union), 2 doses, for adolescents 12 -15 years old
  - Pfizer-BioNTech (COMIRNATY) COVID-19 Vaccine – FDA-approved, 2 doses, for persons 16 years and older
  - Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine – FDA-authorized, 2 doses, for persons 18 years and older
  - Johnson and Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine – FDA-authorized, (labeled as Janssen-Cilag in European Union), 1 dose, for persons 18 years and older
  - AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine – WHO-listed, (labeled as COVISHIELD in Canada and others, labeled as AstraZeneca/SKBio in Republic of Korea), 2 doses, for persons 18 years and older
  - Sinopharm BIBP COVID-19 Vaccine – WHO-listed, 2 doses, for persons 18 years and older
  - Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 Vaccine – WHO-listed, 2 doses, for persons 18 years and older
- If you received a COVID-19 vaccine that is not authorized or approved by FDA or listed for emergency use by WHO, you may start over with an FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- Please note that no data are available on the safety or effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination after receiving a non-FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- Wait at least 28 days after you received the last dose of the non-FDA-authorized or approved vaccine before receiving an FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

### **OTHER VACCINE FACTS:**

- According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended among people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), trying to become pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can prevent severe illness, death, and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19.
- Optimal immunity from vaccination against COVID-19 comes 2-3 weeks after completed vaccination (after second dose for Moderna and Pfizer).
- You can still get COVID-19 if you are vaccinated, as no vaccine is 100% effective; however, fully vaccinated people are much less likely to become ill, be hospitalized or die than people with similar risk factors who are not vaccinated. For those who are fully vaccinated and do get COVID-19, they are much less likely to have severe disease.
- According to the CDPH, from January 1 to July 14, 99% of COVID-19 cases in California were among unvaccinated people.
- In Orange County, data shows that approximately 90% of hospitalized cases in the county are in unvaccinated persons, and residents who are not vaccinated are almost six times more likely to become infected with COVID-19 than those who are fully vaccinated.
- With cases and hospitalizations currently rising throughout OC, everyone aged 12 and up without a medical exemption is encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Getting vaccinated not only protects you, but also helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 to unvaccinated children or other loved ones at home who are unable to be vaccinated.
- Individuals seeking information about the COVID-19 vaccines, are encouraged to follow credible sources to learn more about their benefits, safety and effectiveness:
  - CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>
  - CDPH: <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>
  - Food and Drug Administration: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>

- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines/advice>
- American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/covid-19-vaccine-for-children/about-the-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions>

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## VACCINATION RECORDS

- Individuals receiving vaccines will receive a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccination card listing the vaccine type of the first dose received (e.g. Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson) and the vaccine “lot number.”
- Individuals who received COVID-19 vaccination at a County POD site can log in to [www.Othena.com](http://www.Othena.com) or download the Othena mobile app for iOS/Android to view the details of their COVID-19 vaccination(s), including date(s) administered, vaccine type and lot number(s), vaccine site information, and the administering provider(s).
  - If you find any incorrect details that are associated with your account, please email [IAP@ochca.com](mailto:IAP@ochca.com) for assistance.
- Individuals who lost their CDC card after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine at a County POD site can access a digital version of your vaccination record through the State of California's Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record portal by visiting <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>
  - Those who still wish to request a replacement card can email [IAP@ochca.com](mailto:IAP@ochca.com).
  - Please note that you will be asked to pick it up in person by appointment only to show proof of identification.
- Individuals who were vaccinated at a non-County facility and lost their CDC vaccination card can request a card from the business/health care system that provided the vaccination or login to the State of California Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record (DCVR) portal at <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/> to get a link to a QR code and digital copy of your COVID-19 vaccination record
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated outside the Othena platform but wish to set up a record in Othena, or who need help merging their first and second dose records in Othena, can email [IAP@ochca.com](mailto:IAP@ochca.com) for assistance.
- The State of California has launched a Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record portal. To access this voluntary service, visit <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>
  - For frequently asked questions, visit <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/faq>
- To request a record from the California Immunization Registry (CAIR):
  - Allow your vaccine administering site time to report to CAIR; please allow 2-3 weeks after being fully vaccinated before requesting your COVID-19 immunization record. There are two ways to get a copy of the vaccinations record in CAIR.
  - Ask the provider who administered the COVID vaccine to look up your vaccination record in CAIR and provide you a copy.
  - To request your entire immunization record through the California Immunization Registry, either complete the CAIR [Authorization to Release Form](#), send an email to [CAIRHelpdesk@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CAIRHelpdesk@cdph.ca.gov), or call 1-800-578-7889. Make sure to scan a photo of a current official photo ID ready to upload, as the form must be completed in a single session.
  - You will receive an email with proof of COVID-19 vaccination record (you will not receive a replacement card).
  - It typically takes 3-5 days for processing
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is asking all jurisdictions to check your websites to ensure the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card is not posted, and encourage providers to secure cards in their possession to avoid their misuse. Only cards supplied in the ancillary supply kits, or additional copies supplied by your jurisdiction, may be used by COVID-19 vaccination providers. Posting a print-friendly card on a public website provides opportunity for fraudulent use.

## **PUBLIC HOTLINE**

- The OC COVID-19 Hotline is available five days per week (Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to schedule vaccination appointments, accommodate ride requests for those without transportation, and answer general questions about Othena or COVID-19.