



Kent County Health Department FAQs about the COVID-19 Vaccine

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Before you make an appointment

Do you have to be a Kent County resident to receive the vaccine through the Kent County Health Department?

Since the County is only receiving a few hundred doses every week and has been instructed by the State to prioritize the elderly, we have put additional restrictions in place to manage our supply. Vaccines are being offered to those who live or work in the County. Each clinic may have additional eligibility criteria. Our website kenthd.org will have the most current information.

Why are the elderly being grouped with much younger individuals who do not have the same risk?

Priority groups are based on risk of exposure or risk of developing serious illness. In Phase 1A, health care workers, nursing home staff, and first responders, all of whom are needed to care for our elderly and most vulnerable citizens, were among the first to be vaccinated based on their exposure to COVID-19. Elderly nursing home residents were also vaccinated as part of Phase 1A. Currently, all adults over the age of 65 are eligible for vaccinations.

Is there a cost for getting the vaccine?

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars are given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers can charge an administration fee for giving someone the shot. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for this by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources

and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay the vaccine administration fee.

How often does the health department get a supply of vaccines?

At this time, we are receiving a new vaccine supply each week.

Are you scheduling clinics every week?

At this time, yes. We wait until a shipment of vaccine supply has been delivered before we make clinics available to the public. When appointments are available, a link to make an appointment will be posted on our website kenthd.org

What type of vaccine is the health department using?

KCHD currently offers the Moderna vaccine which is administered in two doses approximately four weeks apart. Learn more about the Moderna vaccine [here](#)

How old do you have to be to get the vaccine through Kent County Health Department?

The Moderna vaccine is only for individuals 18 and older.

Are COVID-19 Vaccines safe?

All the COVID-19 vaccines being used have gone through rigorous studies to ensure they are as safe as possible. Systems that allow CDC to watch for safety issues are in place across the entire country. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines that have been shown to meet rigorous safety criteria and be effective as determined by data from the [manufacturers](#) and findings from large clinical trials. [Watch a video describing the emergency use authorization](#). Clinical trials for all vaccines must first show they meet rigorous criteria for safety and effectiveness before any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, can be authorized or approved for use. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine. Learn more about [how federal partners are ensuring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in the United States](#).

Can I get my COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

People who are pregnant and part of a [group recommended](#) to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may choose to be vaccinated. If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with a healthcare provider might help you make an informed decision. While breastfeeding is an important consideration, it is rarely a safety concern with vaccines.

No data are available yet on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in lactating women or on the effects of mRNA vaccines on breastfed infants or on milk production/excretion.

mRNA vaccines are not thought to be a risk to breastfeeding infants. People who are breastfeeding and are part of a [group recommended](#) to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, such as healthcare personnel, may choose to be vaccinated.

To make sure that more information is gathered regarding the safety of these vaccines when administered during pregnancy, pregnant people are encouraged to enroll in [v-safe](#), CDC's new smartphone-based tool being used to check-in on people's health after they receive a COVID-19 vaccine. If pregnant people report health events through v-safe after vaccination, someone from CDC may call to check on them and get more information. Additionally, pregnant people enrolled in v-safe will be contacted by CDC and asked to participate in a pregnancy registry that will monitor them through pregnancy and the first 3 months of infancy. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccination [considerations for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding](#).

Is it safe for me to get a vaccine if I have an underlying medical condition?

People with underlying medical conditions can receive the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines provided they have not had [an immediate or severe allergic reaction](#) to a COVID-19 vaccine or to any of the ingredients in the vaccine. Learn more about vaccination [considerations for persons with underlying medical conditions](#). Vaccination is an important consideration for adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions because they are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.

Is there a risk of severe allergic reaction if I receive the vaccine?

Serious problems from vaccination can happen, but they are rare. CDC has learned of reports that some people have experienced severe allergic reactions—also known as anaphylaxis—after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. As an example, an allergic reaction is considered severe when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or EpiPen® or if they must go to the hospital. [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and allergies](#).

What about people who have COVID or are in quarantine because of exposure.

Can they make an appointment?

If you have been COVID-19 positive defer vaccination until you have recovered from the acute illness (symptoms) and criteria have been met to discontinue isolation. If you have been advised to quarantine due to an exposure to a positive COVID-19 case, wait until the quarantine period is finished to make an appointment.

I am in 1A, but have not received my first vaccination.

In the first few weeks of vaccine distribution, appointments were open exclusively for those in 1A. We understand that some may not have received notification through their

employer. While closed clinics are no longer available for those in 1A, you can still make an appointment in any public clinic that has availability.

I've heard that lots of people are eligible to receive the vaccine since Maryland is in 1C, but there is not enough vaccine for everyone who is eligible. Is this true?

This is true. KCHD gets approximately 300 1st dose vaccines each week. Simply put, this is far from sufficient to meet the demand of those currently eligible. It may take weeks, or even months for us to vaccinate everyone in 1C.

I am in the Phase 3 group. When should I expect to receive my vaccine?

Because we are only getting around 300 1st doses per week, it will likely take a few months to vaccinate the majority of people in Phase 1 and 2. We will routinely update the public when we open vaccine eligibility to more population groups.

Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as getting another vaccine?

Wait at least 14 days before getting any other vaccine, including a flu or shingles vaccine, if you get your COVID-19 vaccine first. And if you get another vaccine first, wait at least 14 days before getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

If a COVID-19 vaccine is inadvertently given within 14 days of another vaccine, you do not need to restart the COVID-19 vaccine series; you should still complete the series on schedule. When more data are available on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines administered simultaneously with other vaccines, CDC may update this recommendation.

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get the vaccine when I am eligible?

Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. If you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Experts do not yet know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called "natural immunity," varies from person to person. It is rare for someone who has had COVID-19 to get infected again. It also is uncommon for people who do get COVID-19 again to get it within 90 days of when they recovered from their first infection. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have more data on how well the vaccines work.

Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are working to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

Is there a waitlist for extra doses at a vaccine clinic or in case someone doesn't show up for their vaccine appointment?

No. KCHD draws up doses from vaccine vials throughout the vaccine clinic day (rather than all at the beginning). In doing so, we are able to modify in real-time how many vials are opened and how many doses are drawn based on how many people are showing up for appointments to ensure that no COVID-19 vaccine doses go to waste.

Making an appointment

How do I make an appointment to get my vaccine?

If you are currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, you can schedule your appointment by visiting our website kenthd.org. A link is posted on our homepage, under the 'hot topics' board on the right-hand side of the page.

I clicked on the link to make an appointment on your website, but all of the search filters I tried didn't work. Am I doing something wrong?

The direct link on our website has already been filtered for 'Kent'. There is no need to add additional search filters as this may result in no clinics showing.

I tried to make an appointment online but all slots were gone by the time I completed my application. Will my information be saved?

We understand how frustrating this must feel. Our vaccine supply is extremely limited, and many people are attempting to make appointments. Until our supply increases, our appointment slots are likely to be filled within a matter of minutes. The online system does not have a 'save' feature at this time.

My parents don't have a computer or a smartphone. How can they make an appointment online?

Electronic registration on the statewide vaccine appointment registration system (PrepModSM) is required for every person who wants to be vaccinated through a local health department in Maryland. Persons without internet access are encouraged to connect with a trusted person in their lives to help them make an appointment. This could be a family member, friend or neighbor. In the near future, a volunteer group through the Commission on Aging will be able to assist our residents, and information will be shared widely with the public.

Some of the vaccination clinics you schedule are ‘CLOSED’. What does that mean?

KCHD offers two types of clinics: closed, and public. The closed clinics are usually for employees in priority designations (i.e, education, or continuity of government) or other identified groups such as assisted living facilities. By having closed clinics we can better manage our limited supply. Our partner organizations identify people within their facility or place of employment that are prioritized for vaccination.

I see a few appointments available on the website but the site won’t let me make an appointment.

Because there are a limited number of appointments available each week, they will all likely be booked within minutes of clinics being posted online. There are times when individuals may cancel their appointment resulting in new appointments showing. If you attempt to register for one of these slots and the MarylandVax/PrepMod system does not let you proceed to the last page, there is likely a technical issue with the website. We apologize but our staff can not fix the issue from our end.

We are getting ready to travel out of state. Should I make an appointment for my first dose if I won’t be around four weeks later?

Ideally the vaccine should be administered by the same provider both times. If you receive your first dose through KCHD you should plan to receive your second dose approximately 4 weeks later. We have no way to guarantee that you will be able to get your second dose out of county or out of state. At this time, we are unable to accommodate general rescheduling of 2nd dose appointments. Emergency rescheduling will be determined on a case-by-case basis. When scheduling your 1st appointment, please ensure that you will be available approximately four weeks later for your second visit.

Can I put my name on a notification list so I am made aware when new clinics are scheduled?

Yes. Visit our website kenthd.org. On the right-hand side under the ‘hot topics’ section you will see a link to add your contact information to our notification list. Please note- this is neither a waiting list nor a registration list. It is only a courtesy notification list. We will email each time new public clinics are added.

What about people who speak Spanish? What services are available?

Our website kenthd.org has a Spanish translation feature. The online application at the MarylandVax/Prepmod site is also available online in Spanish. Persons who have questions can also call KCHD and speak to an interpreter.

Can undocumented individuals receive the vaccine?

Yes the vaccine is available to all adults 18 and older regardless of immigration status.

Can I schedule my 2nd dose appointment through KCHD if I received my 1st dose through another provider?

In short, no. KCHD's supply of the 2nd dose vaccine is directly related to how many people we administer the 1st dose to.

After you make an appointment

I got an appointment! What do I need to do to prepare?

- Wear short sleeves to your appointment.
- Do not arrive more than 5 minutes early for your vaccine appointment time arriving early impacts traffic flow and will result in increased wait time.
- Bring identification.
 - If you are eligible for a vaccine due to work/occupational category, you will need to bring work identification or a letter from your employer verifying your eligibility.
 - If you are eligible for a vaccine due to age, you will need to bring identification documenting your age and proof of living in Kent County.
 - If you are eligible for a vaccine due to a developmental or cognitive disability, please bring with you a note from your healthcare provider or medical record verifying eligibility based on disability.

I forgot the date of my vaccine appointment

First, check your email inbox and/or spam folder to see if you can find your confirmation email. If you still cannot find it, please contact Kent County Health Department @410-778-1350.

How do I set an appointment for my second vaccine?

If you receive your first dose through the Kent County Health Department, your second dose has been reserved for you. You will receive an email 2-3 weeks after your first dose with a link to register for your 2nd dose. The Moderna vaccine second dose should be scheduled for a time no earlier than four weeks after the first dose. If it is not possible to schedule an appointment for the second dose at the recommended interval, schedule an appointment at the next earliest time available.

I never got an email with a link to register for my 2nd appointment.

First, check your spam folder. If it has been 3 weeks since your first appointment and you have not received a link to register for your second appointment, email kchd.incidents@maryland.gov

I got an email that my appointment has been canceled. Why?

Our vaccine supply is extremely limited and appointments are only being offered to those who live or work in the county and meet the eligibility criteria for the posted clinics. Our staff reviews each appointment to ensure that criteria has been met. If we determine that the eligibility criteria has not been met, we will email a pending cancellation notification within a few days. If you feel that the decision was made in error, you will have 24 hours to contest the decision by providing documentation.

What if I don't have transportation to get to my appointment?

Delmarva Community Transit (DCT) will provide door-to-door service for your vaccine appointment at the Kent County Community Center in Worton – please call DCT dispatch at 410-778-5187, **24 hours in advance** between 7AM – 4PM to arrange a ride for your vaccine. Rides are \$3 each way – \$6 total, payable in cash.

Medical Assistance Transportation is also available if you live in Kent County, have no other means of transportation and have a current Medical Assistance number, please call 48 hours in advance of your appointment to schedule transportation. 410-778-1350.

My father has dementia and is frail. Can I accompany him to his appointment?

If an appointment holder needs assistance, caregivers are encouraged to participate in the vaccination process. Wheelchairs will also be available.

Will I have to wait after I get my appointment?

Yes. Everyone will be required to wait for at least 15 minutes after inoculation. Those with a history of a severe allergic reaction (for example, someone who carries an EpiPen) will be required to wait at least 30 minutes. Depending on where the clinic occurs, you may be asked to wait in your vehicle.

What if I am sick the day of my appointment? Should I reschedule my appointment?

Anyone with covid-like symptoms should not attend a clinic and should cancel their appointment. To cancel your appointment, open the confirmation email you were sent, and click on the 'cancel appointment' option.

Do I need to bring anything with me to my second dose appointment?

Yes. Please bring your photo ID and your vaccination card provided to you at your first appointment.

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received 2 doses of the vaccine?

Yes. Not enough information is currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people [wear masks](#) and [avoid close contact with others](#) to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision. We also don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. CDC will continue to update this page as we learn more.

While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic.

To protect yourself and others, follow these recommendations:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for [how to protect yourself and others](#) will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.