

Tips for Securing Vaccine Appointments for Yourself or a Loved One

March 2021

Volunteers are working to help those who are eligible for vaccines in NJ but unable to secure an appointment on their own. You may be able to find an appointment for yourself or a loved one by following some of these tips that can help you get started searching.

Eligibility guidelines can change with new groups added at various times. To see if you are eligible, go to the NJ COVID-19 Information Hub page here:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/who-is-eligible-for-vaccination-in-nj-jersey-who-is-included-in-the-vaccination-phases>.

Many, but not all sites require registration through the NJ Vaccine Scheduling System. You can register here: <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov>. This system cannot keep up with demand but you should still register.

You might have better success searching for an appointment yourself. Some folks prefer making phone calls while others may prefer searching and scheduling on the internet. We have tips for both.

You may want to focus on a single method/location or you may want to broaden your approach. Persistence is key so use whatever methods you feel most comfortable with and are best for you. It is much better to keep it simple and use only one method with persistence than to try to cover all bases and get overwhelmed.

Appointments are limited so you may see messages saying there are no appointments available - keep trying as changes can appear literally at any moment. Although not always, appointments are most likely to become available between midnight and 4am. The further you are willing/able to travel, the better chance you have of finding an appointment sooner rather than later.

- If you prefer to make phone calls:
 - Walmart is scheduling appointments directly over the phone for the covid vaccine for 65+ years old by calling the Walmart pharmacy. If you don't know your closest Walmart pharmacies, you can find them through their website here: <https://www.walmart.com/help/article/pharmacy-locator/bbd89196a2f84da68c477373de08a716> or by googling "walmart pharmacy locations". When you call, press "0" to be connected directly to the pharmacy.

- The Virtua Megasite in Moorestown is scheduling appointments in April and appears to have open slots. Call them at 888-847-8823, option 5. As of this writing (3/22/21), don't listen to the options, simply hit 5 as soon as the call connects. You may have to hold for some time but once you get through folks are getting appointments.

- If you prefer using the internet:
 - Use social media groups to help find hints and tips
 - Facebook page for help and tips
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/891546924927251/>
 - Twitter accounts for help/links
@nj_vaccine
@C19VaxxUpdates
 - Neighbors may be posting local info on nextdoor.com

 - Finding appointments @ CVS or Walgreens via their respective websites online
 - Walgreens may be the most straightforward option to schedule an appointment for yourself but they do require that you have an online account. You can set this up through their webpage or their app on a smartphone.
 - Walgreens shows only appointments available in the next 5 days within 25 miles of the zip code you enter so you'll want to try different zip codes and check daily for new appointments.
 - Timing - Appointments tend to drop between midnight and 3 or 4 AM
 - Continually refreshing your browser may be needed to see openings
 - Using auto-fill allows you to move fast on open appointments
 - If appointments aren't available in your area, try switching to a different zip code where you may be able to travel

 - Check out health services like megasites and hospital groups
 - Updates throughout the day, but pretty regularly between 12:00 and 12:15 am
 - Refresh every few seconds between those times, when appointments appear, go through as fast as possible, preferably with autofill on
 - Hackensack University Medical Center
<https://mychart.hmhn.org/MyChart/SignupAndSchedule/EmbeddedSchedule?dept=1110101656&code=njv&vt=112916>
 - Inspira
<https://www.inspirahealthnetwork.org/coronavirus-covid-2019/covid-19-vaccine>

- Atlantic County Regional Vaccination Center (Atlantic County Megasite. Scheduling only open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) <https://vaccination.atlanticare.org/default.aspx>
 - Virtua Health - Moorestown (Burlington County Megasite) <https://www.virtua.org/vaccine>
 - RWJBarnabas - Edison (Middlesex County Megasite) <https://www.rwjbh.org/patients-visitors/what-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19/schedule-a-vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-appointment-request-form/>
 - Atlantic Health System - Rockaway (Morris County Megasite) <https://www.atlantichealth.org/conditions-treatments/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-vaccine.html>
 - Camden County Vaccine Scheduling through Cooper Health - Camden County Community College, Blackwood Campus <https://www.camdencounty.com/vaccine-registration-for-computers/>
 - To find other locations throughout NJ listed by county <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-eligible-recipients>
 - Rowan Medicine <https://rowanmedicine.com/vaccine/registration.html>
- As a general rule, vaccines are not available as walk-ins, appointments are required. However, some people have had luck going to pharmacies 15-30 minutes before the last vaccine appointment and waiting to see if there are leftover doses due to cancellations/no-shows.

Please, if you have requested assistance in finding an appointment and you subsequently find one through any means, please inform those from whom you requested assistance.