

Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Shots Available for High-Risk Groups + Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Capacity Increased



From NCDHHS Communications <news@dhhs.nc.gov>

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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Sept. 24, 2021

[Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Shots Available for High-Risk Groups](#)

To strengthen and extend protections against severe illness, North Carolinians at high risk for serious illness or exposure, and who have been fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech (COMINARTY) vaccine for six months or more, [can now receive](#) a COVID-19 booster shot.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today [announced](#) the Pfizer-

BioNTech (COMIRNATY) COVID-19 booster shot is recommended for individuals who have been fully vaccinated for six months or more with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The CDC's decision follows the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorization of boosters for certain populations on Sept. 22.

People who are 65 years or older, 18 years or older with [underlying medical conditions](#), or those who work in a high-risk settings, such as healthcare workers, teachers and childcare providers, or food workers, are eligible in North Carolina.

Those eligible can find booster shots at their healthcare provider, pharmacies and other locations where COVID-19 vaccines are available. There is no need for people to go back to the location where they received their original vaccines—most COVID-19 vaccination locations can provide Pfizer boosters. Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/my-spot) and check "Pfizer-BioNTech (age 12+)" to search locations and ensure Pfizer is available.

If you have questions about Pfizer COVID-19 boosters, you can join NCDHHS' upcoming Town Hall featuring Dr. Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, State Health Director and NCDHHS Chief Medical Officer on Monday, Sept. 27, 5:30 to 6 p.m. by dialing (855) 756-7520 and entering 76072# when prompted.

Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/my-spot) for more COVID-19 information and updates and to find a vaccine location near you.

NCDHHS encourages everyone 12 and older to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and to continue to practice the 3 Ws – wear a mask, wait six feet apart and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to protect yourself and others.

[North Carolina Increasing Capacity to Offer Monoclonal Antibody Therapy for COVID-19](#)



Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms? Exposed to COVID-19?

While vaccines offer the best protection from COVID-19, monoclonal antibodies may help.

LEARN MORE + FIND TREATMENT:

1-877-332-6585 (English)



1-877-366-0310 (Spanish)

NCDHHS [announced](#) four new locations offering [monoclonal antibodies \(mAbs\) for treatment of COVID-19](#), bringing the number of sites in the state offering this therapy to more than 200. This will give more North Carolinians access to monoclonal antibody treatment, which can decrease the likelihood of hospitalization related to COVID-19 if taken early.

The four new sites are located in Harnett, Johnston, Robeson and Wilkes counties. Listed below are the new sites and information about how people can make appointments, which are required:

- Wilkes County: The Health Foundation in North Wilkesboro. Call 336-528-1637 or fill out this [form](#).
- Johnston County: Smithfield Hospital Campus in Smithfield. Call 919-268-1621.
- Harnett County: Central Carolina Community College Harnett Health Sciences Center in Lillington. Call 910-893-0653.
- Robeson County: UNC-Southeastern Ambulatory Care Center in Lumberton. Referrals based on a positive COVID-19 test are required for this location.

For more information about monoclonal antibody treatment and to find a treatment center near you, go [here](#).

[Health Officials Urge North Carolinians to Get Vaccinated for Flu as COVID-19 Cases Remain High](#)

Public health officials in NCDHHS are [urging North Carolinians](#) to protect themselves, their families and those around them by getting vaccinated against [Influenza](#) as the state enters flu season while COVID-19 cases remain high.

Flu vaccinations are available at hospitals, pharmacies, private medical offices, some federally qualified health care centers and local health departments. COVID-19 vaccines [may now be administered](#) at the same time as other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, for those who need both. This fall and winter – don't wait to vaccinate for flu and COVID-19.

The [Respiratory Surveillance Report](#) provides updates on flu and COVID-19 surveillance data. Beginning Oct. 8 and through the flu season, flu data from around the state will be included in addition to data on COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

[Renters Impacted by COVID-19 Can Apply to NC's HOPE Program](#)

North Carolina renters who are behind on rent or utility payments, or face homelessness or eviction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, can apply for financial help to stay in their homes through the NC Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions Program (HOPE).

Please visit HOPE.NC.gov for more information and to apply online. If you cannot access the HOPE website, please contact the HOPE Call Center at (888) 9ASK-HOPE to speak with a program specialist, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[COVID-19 Vaccines and Pregnancy](#)



Doctors across North Carolina speak about the COVID-19 vaccines and their choice to get vaccinated while pregnant. Find your spot to get vaccinated at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov).

[Wilson County Earns National Award for Virtual Customer Engagement During COVID](#)

Wilson County Department of Social Services (DSS) [has been recognized](#) with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for the implementation of the agency's virtual customer service response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The county developed a virtual customer engagement plan that allowed for customer service delivery to residents, children and the aging population, which maintained engagement with vulnerable populations while ensuring safety for everyone.

The plan encompassed all program areas, including home visit procedures in Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services and the use and expansion of technology options to maintain quality customer service. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19 Testing

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to the virus should get tested as soon as possible. To find a testing site near you, visit ncdhhs.gov/GetTested.

People who are not experiencing serious symptoms should not go to the emergency department for routine COVID-19 testing. People should seek medical attention immediately for serious symptoms such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.

For an up-to-date list of no-cost community testing events, visit the [No-Cost Testing Events](#) webpage. Additionally, all North Carolinians can request a free at-home COVID-19 testing kit. [Learn more.](#)

Get the Latest Information

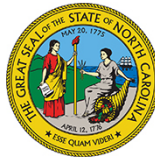
- Visit the [NCDHHS COVID-19 website](#) for information, a [data dashboard](#), [updates](#), [live briefings](#), the [latest guidance](#) and more.
- Go to [North Carolina's COVID-19 Information Hub](#) for resources, information and assistance across state government, including the latest [news releases](#).
- Check out YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov to learn more about [finding your spot](#) to get your shot, [videos](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.

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