

Pfizer Booster Shots Now Available for Ages 16 and Older + \$500K in Grants for Community Organizations



From NCDHHS Communications <news@dhhs.nc.gov>
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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Dec. 10, 2021

Pfizer Booster Shots Now Available for Ages 16 and Older



Eligibility for Pfizer's COVID-19 booster shot has been [expanded](#) to include 16- and 17-year-olds, making safe and effective boosters now available for everyone ages 16 and older.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends a booster for 16- and 17-year-olds following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization for 16- and 17-year-olds to receive a Pfizer booster six months after the date

of their second Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Recent studies indicate that while protection against severe disease and death remains strong for individuals who are fully vaccinated, people may be more likely to develop milder or asymptomatic COVID-19 over time, including 16- and 17-year-olds. A single booster dose will help provide continued protection against COVID-19. Data on Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine show they are safe and effective.

Visit the NCDHHS website for more information about [boosters and additional doses](#). More information about vaccines for kids can be found [here](#). To find a vaccine location, or for more information about COVID-19 vaccines in North Carolina, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) or call the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center for free at 888-675-4567.

Get Your Flu and COVID Vaccines



Make sure to layer up your protection this winter and get both your flu and COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time as other vaccines, including the flu vaccine.

Like many vaccinations, boosters are needed to strengthen and extend protection against COVID-19, and help protect you against the COVID variants. If you got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, you should get a booster two months after your shot. If you got the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, you should get a booster six months after your second shot.

Learn more about the [similarities and differences between the flu and COVID-19](#) from the CDC, and visit [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/flu](https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/flu) for more information about the flu and where to get

your flu and COVID-19 vaccines..

[Ask Your Pediatrician About Your Child's COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone five and older. Talk to your pediatrician about getting you kids vaccinated to protect them against getting seriously ill or having to go to the hospital. Go myspot.nc.gov to find your kids spot today.

[Healthier Together Announces \\$500K in Grants for Community Organizations](#)

The logo for Healthier Together is displayed on a solid blue background. The word "Healthier" is in a white, sans-serif font, followed by "TOGETHER" in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the phrase "A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP" is written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Healthier **TOGETHER**
A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Healthier Together, a public-private partnership between the NCDHHS and NC Counts Coalition, has [awarded](#) \$500,000 in the second round of grants to support 21 local

community groups to provide equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines throughout North Carolina.

Grants will fund activities to conduct vaccine outreach and education efforts to help people get connected to first, second, additional or booster vaccines. The equity initiatives also support activities to connect residents to transportation resources, community health workers and COVID-19 testing resources. The funding period is November 2021 through February 2022.

[Enrollment Open for Federal Health Insurance Marketplace](#)

Recent changes in federal law make [obtaining insurance](#) through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace more affordable and available to more than 100,000 additional people in the state. In North Carolina, as many as 116,500 uninsured people are newly eligible for tax credits, while 112,600 more may get the benchmark Marketplace coverage at no cost.

Those who need coverage in place by Jan. 1, 2022, must sign up by **Dec. 15**. Open enrollment ends Jan. 15, 2022, with coverage taking effect at later dates. Go to [HealthCare.gov](#) to compare plan benefits, costs and other features, and find out if you're eligible.

[COVID-19 Testing](#)

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to the virus should get tested as soon as possible. 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.

- To find a testing site near you, visit [ncdhhs.gov/GetTested](#).
- 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

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- assistance across state government, including the latest [news releases](#).
- Check out [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://www.yourshotyourshot.nc.gov) to learn more about [finding your spot](#) to get your shot, [videos](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.
 - Follow NCDHHS on [social media](#).



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