Chickahominy Health District: COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ's

Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccination?

COVID-19 vaccines are important to us as individuals and as a community. There's no way to know ahead of time how COVID-19 will affect you. For example, we still don't know yet why some healthy people become seriously ill or die from COVID-19, while other healthy people with COVID-19 only become mildly ill. However, once vaccinated, your body builds immunity to the virus so you are less likely to get infected, to get sick, and to spread COVID-19 to others. In fact, the COVID-19 vaccine will greatly reduce your chances of getting COVID-19 and will make it very likely that if you do get the virus, you will have only mild symptoms or none at all.

All available COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective for preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

Do I need an appointment to get a vaccine at Goochland Day?

No appointment is needed - this event is open to "walk-ins" while supplies last.

Is there a fee to get the vaccine?

All COVID-19 vaccines are **free.** No insurance is required at our health district clinics.

What types of vaccines do you have?

All public events have all 3 types of vaccines. Pfizer for ages 12+ (ages 12-17 must have a parent or guardian present), Johnson & Johnson for ages 18+ and Moderna for ages 18+.

What dose can I get at Goochland Day?

All public events are open to 1st or 2nd doses for anyone 12 or older. For those who are moderately/severely immunocompromised, a 3rd dose of Moderna or Pfizer is also available (See below).

What if I am late getting my 2nd dose, do I have to start the series over?

We encourage you to get your 2nd dose, even if it is later than recommended since it will greatly increase your protection. You **do not** need to start the series over.

Can I get a booster dose if I already have 2 doses?

Third doses are currently only available to immunocompromised persons who received Moderna or Pfizer. The 3rd dose for immunocompromised persons must be at least 28 days after their 2nd dose. Johnson & Johnson has not yet approved any additional doses (but research is underway).

Who qualifies as immunocompromised?

Per the CDC's regulations this includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received 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

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What if I'm still not sure if I'm immunocompromised?

If you are unsure if you are immunocompromised, we advise you to speak directly with your physician.

What about booster doses for non-immunocompromised persons or those over the age of 65?

We do not yet have approval to move forward with booster doses for non-immunocompromised persons. We are waiting on guidance from the CDC and FDA but are expecting it may open up to non-immunocompromised persons soon. As soon as approval is given, the health department is prepared to begin booster doses according to the guidelines set by the CDC. We thank you for your patience.

What about vaccination for those under 12 years of age?

At this time, the Pfizer vaccine is authorized by the FDA for those ages 12 and up. Pfizer anticipates submitting data this month (Sept. 2021) on results of vaccine trials those ages 5-11. Emergency authorization for this younger age group may be given in late fall or midwinter.

What if I have lost my vaccine card or don't remember when I had my first dose?

The VDH has established a new helpdesk to assist in replacing misplaced/incorrect COVID vaccine cards/records. Individuals can call 866-375-9795 or email vaccinerecord@vdh.virginia.gov.

What if I can't attend this event or need to find a 2nd dose after the event?

All future vaccination events held by the Chickahominy Health District can be found here: https://forms.gle/5XYi9FkWt5uZoDkt7

You can also visit vaccines.gov and enter your zip code to see vaccination locations near you.

Where can I get more information?

Visit https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-faq/vaccination/. You can also call the Chickahominy Health District's hotline at 804-365-3240.