

## **Getting Signed up for the COVID-19 Vaccine**

Many individuals with vision impairments or are legally blind are able to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine based on age, occupation, living environment, or pre-existing condition. To identify if you fall under one of these categories visit your county's COVID Vaccine website for current status (found below):

[District of Columbia](#)  
[Montgomery County, MD](#)  
[Prince George's County, MD](#)

[Alexandria City](#)  
[Arlington County, VA](#)  
[Fairfax County, VA](#)

**Any information provided is for informational purposes only. It is not medical advice and should not be substituted for regular consultation with your health care provider. If you have any concerns about your health or the vaccine, contact your health care provider.**

### **General Information:**

All of this information is current and subject to change. Processes change at any moment, and minor changes can occur overtime. Please stay up to date on their website or call their hotlines.

- In General, the process through the county is:
  - Pre-register
  - Contacted by county to register for a 1<sup>st</sup> dose date
  - Get 1<sup>st</sup> dose
  - Schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> dose – at site, or a few days or weeks later
  - Get 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, a few weeks later you are fully protected!

- Each jurisdiction now has an online pre-registration process. And, a hotline is available for those who either do not use internet or find the platform difficult to use to complete the process.
  - You are allowed to have a family member or friend assist you in signing-up.
  - As vaccines become available, you will be contacted (via phone or email) to register for a vaccination date.
- When you pre-register, you will be asked to provide your name, address, phone/email, how you prefer to be contacted, basic demographics and any pre-existing conditions that can qualify you to register.
  - DO NOT provide banking information, Social Security number, or immigration status. In addition, you should not need to provide insurance status at this point.
    - If you are asked for this information, note the phone number, hang-up, and **report it to 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477)**.
    - To learn more about possible scam calls you may receive and should report, visit the Office of the Inspector General [website](#).
  - There is no cost involved to getting your vaccine. It is possible some private companies may charge a small administration fee (~\$20) however most will be free.
- People who fall under earlier Phases are prioritized in the registration process. So, include all information applicable to you (ex.: in Virginia, if you are over age 65 and live in a long-term care facility (LTCF), be sure to check all applicable boxes. LTCF are Phase 1A, where 65+ age is Phase 1B).

- If you are in a long-term care facility, assisted, or senior living community, contact your facility to see if they are providing vaccinations or have someone who can assist you in registration.
- If you belong to a village, contact them. Some villages have volunteers who can help you sign-up for an appointment.
- Private companies (i.e., CVS or Safeway), hospital systems, and community health centers have limited inventories of vaccines. You may be able to get vaccinated via these outlets. Contact your pharmacy, primary care provider, and/or hospital system to see if they offer, or have a list of those who offer the vaccine. Sign-up process varies for all these outlets. Visit <https://vaccinefinder.org/> to sign up at a pharmacy near you (appointments are often fully booked).
- Please understand there is a very high demand for vaccines and supply is limited. **You may have to wait several weeks before a date is available to get your first dose.**
- Hotlines may have some waiting times. (Middle of day seems to be shorter wait times)
- **Be a self-advocate!** If you need to communicate via phone be sure to let them know and ensure they have it in their records. And, request your 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment when you receive your 1<sup>st</sup> dose, or make sure they know your preferred contact method.
  - Take notes of dates, confirmations, and when you are contacted. This will be helpful if any issues occur.
- Check your spam folder if you elect for email confirmation and communications. It is possible they will end up there.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose appointments should be 3-6 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup> dose. If you are not getting a date set after 3 weeks, call your jurisdiction's hotlines.

### **District of Columbia:**

- Pre-registration [website](#) (live 3/10/21) or call **855-363-0333**.
  - [Sign-up](#) to receive updates via text or email
  - Provide demographic information, occupation, medical history, and contact information
  - When your time comes, you will be contacted to sign-up for a vaccination date (you have 48 hours to book an appt. after being contacted)
- Transportation assistance:
  - All vaccination locations are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - Transport DC users can get rides to vaccine sites all month long since vaccines are considered medical and therefore eligible under the program. Medical trips are not restricted.
  - VetsRide is available to eligible veterans who can use their vouchers to get to vaccine appointments, through the provider
  - DC Medicaid MCOs cover transportation costs for vaccines:
    - AmeriHealth Caritas DC: 1-800-315-3485. Rides available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- CareFirst Community Health Plan DC: 1-855-824-5693. Rides available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
  - Health Services for Children with Special Needs: Call SET Transportation at 1-866-991-5433
  - MedStar Family Choice DC: 1-866-201-9974
- Upon receiving your first vaccine, ask for a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointment at the vaccination site. And, make sure they have noted your preferred method of contact.
- Volunteer programs to assist in sign-up:
  - [East Rock Creek Village](#) – Ward 4 residents
  - Neighbors Helping Neighbors – (202) 573-7548
  - Edlavitch Jewish Community Center and GWU Hillel students help 65+ DC, MD, and VA resident get enrolled [here](#)
  - [District of Columbia Vaccine Hunters](#) Facebook page
  - DC Vaccine Coalition – volunteers who assist in signing up and transportation: 240-516-6993 or email [dcvaccinecoalition@gmail.com](mailto:dcvaccinecoalition@gmail.com)

## **Maryland:**

- Hotline: 1-855-634-6829 and [website](#)
  - MassVax [website](#) to register for state-run sites (such as Six Flags in Prince George’s Co.)
    - Text “MDReady” to 898-211 for alerts

- Use the hotline to sign-up for mass vaccination sites as well. Mass vaccination sites vary and have limited appointments. Contact the hotline or visit the website multiple times per day to check availability.
- **Update: Pre-register for mass vaccination sites at [covidvax.maryland.gov](https://covidvax.maryland.gov) or 1-855-634-6829**
- Find vaccination sites on their [vaccine locator tool](#)
  - Note: this may be difficult to navigate with low vision, however you can enter your address and find close by vaccination locations
- [Maryland Vaccine Hunters](#) Facebook group, provide up to date information state-wide
- You are guaranteed (by state) to receive 2<sup>nd</sup> dose at same location you received your first.

### **Montgomery County:**

- Preregistration [website](#) or call **240-777-2982**.
  - Private options also available on the website
- [Sign-up](#) to receive updates via text or email.
- Accessibility Issues? Email: [adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov)
- Provide basic information, you are placed on a list. As vaccines become available, you will be contacted via your preferred method to register for a vaccine slot.
- Expect a few to several weeks of wait time. You can always call to confirm you are on the list.

- When contacted to register, you will select a date, time, and location that is available.
  - When pre-registered residents receive an e-mail from the County inviting them to schedule a vaccine appointment, it says at the top **Mont. Co. COVID-19 1<sup>st</sup> Does Vaccination Appointment Invitation**
- The county contacts you about 3 weeks after your 1<sup>st</sup> dose for your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.
  - If you do not get contacted, call **240-777-2982** to ask for a second dose.
- Volunteer programs providing assistance:
  - Edlavitch Jewish Community Center and GWU Hillel students help 65+ DC, MD, and VA resident get enrolled [here](#)
  - The Vaccine Hunters – county teachers who created a [spreadsheet](#) and can be contacted via email at: [vaccinehunters@gmail.com](mailto:vaccinehunters@gmail.com)
- Transportation Assistance: Residents 50+ and those living with disabilities who need assistance arranging transportation may call Connect-A-Ride at 301-738-3252. The mobility specialists can help connect you to the most appropriate transportation resource. Residents who require an escort for the duration of their trip may qualify for the Escorted Transportation program.

### **Prince George's County:**

- Preregistration: [website](#) or call **301-883-7879**
- Provide basic information, you are placed on a list. As vaccines become available, you will be contacted via your preferred method to register for a vaccine slot.

- Expect a few to several weeks of wait time. You can always call to confirm you are on the list.
- Upon receiving 1<sup>st</sup> dose, request to schedule your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose while at the facility
- Volunteer programs providing assistance:
  - Edlavitch Jewish Community Center and GWU Hillel students help 65+ DC, MD, and VA resident get enrolled [here](#)

### Virginia:

- Vaccinate VA – statewide system for pre-registration. [Website](#) or call **877-829-4682**
  - Will send out reminders (text or email) that you are pre-registered
  - **Fairfax Co. IS NOT using this system.**
- Volunteer programs providing assistance:
  - Edlavitch Jewish Community Center and GWU Hillel students help 65+ DC, MD, and VA resident get enrolled [here](#)

### Alexandria:

- Preregistration: Vaccinate VA [website](#) or call **877-829-4682**
- Provide basic information, you are placed on a list. As vaccines become available, you will be contacted via your preferred method to register for a vaccine slot.
- Expect a few to several weeks of wait time. You can always call to confirm you are on the list.



- Receive an appointment slot from 703-746-4988 or [vaccine.registration@alexandriava.gov](mailto:vaccine.registration@alexandriava.gov)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose: those who provide email address will receive an email to make appointment online. Those without internet or email can make appointment over the phone using the hotline. Expect an email, or call to schedule 48 hours after you receive your first dose.

### **Arlington County:**

- Preregistration: Vaccinate VA [website](#) or call **703-228-7999**
- Be sure you emphasize your preferred method of contact (phone/email)
- Provide basic information, you are placed on a list. As vaccines become available, you will be contacted via your preferred method to register for a vaccine slot.
- Volunteer programs providing assistance:
  - Edlavitch Jewish Community Center and GWU Hillel students help 65+ DC, MD, and VA resident get enrolled [here](#)
- Expect a few to several weeks of wait time. You can always call to confirm you are on the list.
- For 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, you will be contacted a few days before it is time for your second dose.

### **Fairfax County:**

- Preregistration: [website](#) or call **703-324-7404**
  - **They are not currently using Vaccinate VA website!**
- Be sure you emphasize preferred method of contact

- Provide basic information, you are placed on a list. As vaccines become available, you will be contacted via your preferred method to register for a vaccine slot.
- Expect a few to several weeks of wait time. You can always call to confirm you are on the list.
- Transportation assistance from county: Health Dept. Call Center: 703-324-7404
  - Free rides via taxi companies to anyone who does not have access to their own transportation
  - More options can be found [here](#)
- You should receive an email or call 4-7 days prior to 1<sup>st</sup> dose appt. Call the hotline to get confirmation information if you do not receive an email or call.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose: if you received 1<sup>st</sup> dose through Fairfax, you are already in the system and will be contacted. If outside the county, call 703-324-7404

### **Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

- Some doses available for veterans age 65+
- Call 202-745-8000 to inquire about appointments

## **Questions/Requests to Ask when Scheduling Appointment:**

- How is the vaccine site set-up? Is it a walk-up, drive-up, or another format?
- What precautions and requirements to follow to ensure safety while at the test site?
- What information or documents will I need at the vaccination appointment?
- May I bring a caregiver to assist me?
- For any written material, I require an accessible format (large print, braille, audio, etc.). Please have this available when I am scheduled.
- How will I schedule my 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointment (for Pfizer and Moderna)?
- Are there any additional questionnaires I will need to complete, and (if you do not use computer) how may I complete without a computer?
- What happens if I need to cancel or reschedule my appointment date?
- (if need public transportation) I use public transportation. Is there a stop near the testing site?
  - Drive-ups may be an issue – be sure to let them know and they will need to accommodate.
- (if you don't use email) Please provide confirmation information, I do not have an email and do not use a computer.