

COVID-19 Vaccination Data for People Experiencing Homelessness + Vaccine Resources and Information on Vaccine Boosters

NCDHHS produced an analysis of vaccination rates among people experiencing homelessness across 81 of North Carolina's 100 counties. This data covers Durham County, Orange County, and the 79 mostly rural counties participating in the Balance of State Continuum of Care.

Note: The 81 counties of this analysis were selected due to their Homeless Management Information System and CoC's agreeing to participate. NCDHHS is working with NCHMIS and participating CoC's to replicate this analysis statewide.

Overview of Data

- 19% of the people experiencing homelessness in these 81 counties were vaccinated with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine compared to 59% of the total state population.
 - o Durham County: 27.3% of people experiencing homelessness vaccinated compared to 68% of the total county population.
 - o Orange County: 35.6% of people experiencing homelessness vaccinated compared to 72% of the total county population.
 - o Balance of State: 16.8% of people experiencing homelessness vaccinated compared to 51% of the total population of these counties.
- Highest rate of vaccination is in people that were in Emergency Shelter (27.2%). Only 16.4% of people in a Rapid Rehousing Project and 15% of people enrolled only in a CE project were vaccinated.
- Of people experiencing homelessness that were vaccinated, 15.5% received Johnson & Johnson, 42.4% received Moderna, and 39.6% received Pfizer.
- 63% of people who were enrolled in an HMIS project before April 1, 2021 were vaccinated compared to only 37% of people enrolled in an HMIS project after April 1, 2021.
 - o We need to continue ensuring that new people entering the homelessness system are connecting to vaccination.

Key Takeaways

- Despite significant challenges, homeless service providers and their partners have successfully coordinated and created access to COVID-19 vaccination for hundreds of people experiencing homelessness. However, we need to do better to vaccinate this important population.
- There was an impressive push to vaccinate people experiencing homelessness when this population were first eligible. However, rate of vaccination has dropped since then. We need to continue ensuring that new people entering the homelessness system are connecting to vaccination and continue to provide education and incentives for people we are already serving.

Resources to help with vaccination

1. **Mobile On-Site Vaccination:** Mobile On-Site Vaccination Clinics are available to come to organizations at no cost. There is a strict 60 dose minimum to request on-site vaccination currently. This minimum can include first doses and boosters for both clients and staff. If your organization can meet the 60-dose minimum, please contact info@vaxclinic.com to schedule. If you cannot meet the 60-dose minimum, but are interested in mobile on-site vaccination, please

fill out this [form](#). If there is more availability for smaller sites, we will reach out to you. Please reach out to Erika.Walsh@dhhs.nc.gov with any additional questions.

2. Finding a Vaccine Partner for initial vaccine and/or booster doses:

If your facility does not already have a vaccine partner for initial vaccination and/or booster doses, NCDHHS has compiled a list of providers who may be able to offer support. Please take the following steps:

- Access the list of interested partners at the links below (available in Excel and PDF formats)
- Identify the providers in your county that have expressed interest in offering booster doses
- Contact these providers directly based on the information provided to find a partner

This list will be updated regularly, so please check back frequently if you are unable to find a partner. We will share additional resources on this webpage as they become available.

[Access Vaccine Provider List \(Excel\)](#)

[Access Vaccine Provider List \(PDF\)](#)

3. **COVID-19 Vaccination Information and Communication Materials:** COVID-19 Vaccination and Communication materials are available on the NCDHHS website [here](#). The Communication Toolkit is available [here](#).
4. **Vaccine Incentives:** ESG-CV funding can be used make direct, cash payments of up to \$50 per dose to people experiencing homelessness as an incentive for receiving a coronavirus vaccine. If you have questions, please reach out to the NCDHHS ESG Office at NCESG@dhhs.nc.gov.

Information on Booster Doses

To strengthen and extend protections against severe illness, North Carolinians who have been fully vaccinated with the **Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines** may now be eligible to receive a booster dose.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have authorized and recommended ["booster" vaccine shots](#) to provide continued protection.

***Moderna:* If you were vaccinated more than 6 months ago with the Moderna COVID-19 shot, boosters are now available for people:**

- 65 years or older,
- 18 years or older who:
 - live or work in a nursing home or long-term care facility,
 - have underlying medical conditions; or,
 - who work in high-risk settings like healthcare workers, teachers and childcare providers or food workers.

- live or work in a place where many people live together (for example, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, migrant farm housing, dormitories or other group living settings in colleges or universities).

The Moderna booster is a smaller dose than what is given in the first two shots. Be sure to let your provider know you want the booster.

Johnson & Johnson: It is recommended that anyone 18 or older who was vaccinated more than 2 months ago with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should get a booster dose.

Pfizer: Pfizer-BioNTech (COMIRNATY) booster shots continue to be available to anyone at high risk for serious illness or exposure, and who received their second dose at least six months ago.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has now authorized the distribution of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's booster in addition to Pfizer COVID-19 booster. Not all vaccines may be available at every vaccine location.

To find a COVID-19 booster visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/my-spot) to search vaccine locations near you.

Additionally, individuals are now able to receive any brand of COVID-19 vaccine for their booster shot. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. Limited preliminary evidence suggests that booster doses of one of the two mRNA vaccines—Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech—more effectively raise antibody levels than a booster dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. NC DHHS encourages you to speak with a doctor, nurse, or pharmacist if you have questions about what booster is right for you.

Have questions about whether your personal medical conditions or job might make you eligible? Talk to a doctor, pharmacist, or nurse about whether you should get a booster.

Read more in the NCDHHS [press release here](#).