



Butler Borough COVID Connection

September 20, 2021

Butler Borough
Health Department
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New Jersey COVID-19 Updates:

- **FDA approves Comirnaty** (COVID-19 mRNA vaccine), previously known as Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, for prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. Please see the following link for more information: [Comirnaty and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#).
- **Quarantine and Isolation** regulations can be found [here](#).
- **COVID-19 third dose shots** are now available from Pfizer and Moderna for people who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#). This includes those who: have been receiving active *cancer treatments* for tumors or cancers of the blood; have moderate or severe *primary immunodeficiency*; received an *organ transplant* and are taking medication that suppresses the immune system; have advanced or untreated *HIV infection*; received a *stem cell transplant* within the past two years or are taking immunosuppressive medication; and/or have active treatment with *high-dose corticosteroids* or drugs that may suppress immune response. *Individuals that received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are not able to obtain a booster shot.*
- **Face masks are strongly recommended** for both vaccinated *and* unvaccinated people in indoor settings with heightened risk of COVID-19, including those attending gatherings, those in close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated or for whom vaccination status is unknown, and those indoors with a person who is immunocompromised or at increased risk of severe disease.
- **Docket app:** A [new app](#) is available from the NJ Department of Health, making it easier to securely access your COVID-19 vaccination record and provide proof of vaccination as necessary.
- **School recommendations updated:** The NJ Department of Health recently updated COVID-19 guidance for New Jersey schools, including the following:
 - *All K-12 personnel to be fully vaccinated or to undergo testing a minimum of once to twice per week.*
 - Students, staff and visitors are *required to wear face masks* inside school buildings and on buses.
 - *Social distancing* should be implemented, including 3' between students in classrooms.
 - *Cleaning/disinfecting* should be performed daily, particularly frequently touched surfaces.
 - For more information, see the [Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#).
- **Pregnancy and the COVID-19 vaccines:** There is *no* evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of any COVID-19 vaccine. If you are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning a pregnancy, the COVID-19 vaccine is recommended. For more information: [COVID-19 Vaccines; Questions on Fertility](#).
- **September is Suicide Prevention Month:** The COVID-19 pandemic can be linked to adverse mental health outcomes. Active outreach is necessary to reduce the likelihood of suicides during and after the pandemic.
 - American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is holding a virtual program "[Talk Saves Lives](#)," an introduction to Suicide Prevention and what people can do to help themselves and others.
 - Morris County Stigma Free Initiative presents "[My Perfect Life](#)." This is an event for anyone who wants a better understanding of depression, symptoms and how to help someone in need.

