What’s happening with vaccine authorizations?

The federal government is working to transport vaccines as quickly and safely as possible to states, with the goal of ending this pandemic. Each state will allocate the COVID-19 vaccines using guidance provided by the CDC. You can learn more about the CDC’s recommendations here.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued emergency use authorizations for three COVID-19 vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) determined that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (approved for persons 12 and older), Moderna vaccine, and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine (approved for those 18 and older) help prevent the contraction of COVID-19, and can reduce the risk of becoming seriously ill.

What is California’s plan?

Currently, every California 16 and older is eligible for vaccination. Vaccination of people younger than 16 will begin after the COVID-19 vaccines are approved for them. Information about the state's distribution plan can be found here.

How do I get the vaccine in Orange County?

All Orange County residents 16 and older are eligible. To schedule an appointment, register online through https://www.othena.com/.

If you need a ride to an Orange County Super POD vaccination site, you can schedule a ride through the Orange County COVID-19 hotline at 714-834-2000.

How can I find a vaccine appointment near me?

Text your ZIP code to 438829 (GETVAX) to receive 3 locations near you with available vaccines, as well as contact information for those sites so you can go directly to the provider. For Spanish, you’re your ZIP code to 822862 (VACUNA). Please note that if you text it twice, you may get different results. This feature is in place to help spread demand across vaccine locations in a single zip code. Standard messaging rates apply.

Vaccines.gov (English) and Vacunas.gov (Spanish) are websites supported by the CDC and Department of Health and Human Services that can help you find available vaccines near you. These websites are designed to be accessible to those with disabilities. At launch, the sites had nearly 50,000 searchable sites, including primary care physician, federal pharmacy partners, state sites, and FEMA sites. Locations are updated daily.

Many Orange County vaccination sites are also accepting walk-ins. You can find a list of sites and hours of operation here or by calling the Orange County COVID-19 hotline at 714-834-2000.
Who should I contact if I need assistance?

You can call the National COVID-19 Vaccination Assistance Hotline at 1-800-232-0233. They offer assistance in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages. Hearing impaired callers can call their TTY line at 888-720-7489.

What do I need to bring to my vaccine appointment?

Photo ID

Verification that you live or work in Orange County

Do I need to bring anything else to my vaccine appointment if I am a minor?

You must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian if you are under the age of 18.

In addition to your photo ID and verification that you live or work in Orange County, you also need to bring an official form verifying your date of birth, such as your birth certificate or immigration paperwork. Medical visit summaries, medical insurance cards, or prescriptions with your full name and date of birth are also accepted.

For additional information or further assistance, please contact our office at (202) 225-5611 or (949) 668-6600 or submit a question through our website here.

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