

FAQ: COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

JVS requires all clients and staff to be fully vaccinated to safeguard the health and safety of our community, including reducing the likelihood of “breakthrough infections” and protecting those in our community who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Note that unvaccinated individuals may be subject to additional public health measures (e.g., masking, testing) above and beyond what is required of vaccinated individuals. Updates and information regarding JVS’s COVID vaccine requirement can be found here, and additional details will be added when available.

Am I required to be vaccinated before accessing services?

Yes. All JVS clients are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination (or to submit a request for exemption on medical or religious grounds)

Are medical or religious exemptions allowed?

Yes. Medical exemption and religious exemption requests will be considered. Clients granted an exemption will likely be required to follow additional health and safety protocols, including the use of face coverings and regular COVID-19 testing.

If you would like to be considered for a COVID-19 vaccination exemption, please complete one of the following forms:

- Medical Exemption Form:
https://jvs.tfaforms.net/f/request_medical_exemption_COVID-19_vaccine_form
- Religious Exemption Form:
https://jvs.tfaforms.net/f/request_religious_exemption_COVID-19_vaccine_form

Do I need to be vaccinated if I have already had COVID-19?

Yes. JVS requires all clients and staff to be vaccinated, including those who have previously tested positive for COVID-19.

What if I don’t believe the vaccines are safe?

There is a significant amount of information available on the safety and efficacy of vaccines. Here are links to some of this information:

- [COVID-19 vaccines: Get the facts](#) – Mayo Clinic
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Specific Groups](#) – US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) – US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) – World Health Organization
- [Vaccine Safety](#) – US Department of Health and Human Services

What happens if I refuse to be vaccinated?

We require that all JVS clients be vaccinated prior to accessing services in order to protect the health and safety of the community, and we are very hopeful that everyone will do so. Unvaccinated clients who are not approved for a medical or religious exemption will not be able to enroll in JVS programs or services.

What if I am enrolled in a JVS Program that takes place at a partner location (such as a community college or employer partner)?

All JVS clients are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, regardless of where the program takes place. Additionally, all clients and staff must comply with all partner facility COVID-19 protocols.

Am I still required to provide proof of vaccination if I participate in a remote program?

Yes. All JVS clients are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, regardless of if they are accessing a remote program. As more employers are returning to in-person work and requiring vaccines - full vaccination increases your access to work-based learning and employment opportunities.

Where can I get my vaccination?

Vaccine distribution is managed by federal and state agencies. Here is how to find vaccines, register, and receive your vaccine:

- Go to the CDC's [vaccine location webpage](#), which includes search boxes for state health departments and the [national Vaccine Finder website](#); or,
- Go to California Department of Public Health <https://myturn.ca.gov/>
- Ask your personal health provider. Some doctors' offices offer pre-registration at clinics, or if not, can advise you on services in your area.

I have been unable to get a vaccine appointment. Is JVS able to help me get vaccinated?

While JVS cannot make vaccination appointments for clients, we can offer guidance for those having difficulty securing one. Please contact Laura Combs, Client Services Manager, at lcombs@jvs.org or (415) 608-3423 for assistance.

Will I have to pay to get a COVID-19 vaccine? What if I don't have health insurance?

If you have insurance, your doctor or pharmacy may charge your insurance company a fee for the vaccine. People without health insurance can get COVID-19 vaccines at no cost. For more information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/no-cost.html>

What if I am having transportation challenges getting to a COVID-19 vaccine site?

Many Bay Area public transportation systems are offering free rides to vaccine

distribution sites and some are establishing shuttle services to the vaccination locations for people without a car or those who need mobility assistance. To learn more please visit: <http://www.healthytransitplan.com/vaccination-sites/> If you would like additional assistance coming up with a transit plan to and from a vaccine site please contact Laura Combs, Client Services Manager, at lcombs@jvs.org or (415) 608-3423 for assistance.

Will I be asked about my immigration status when I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine is being given at no cost regardless of immigration status. You will not be asked about your immigration status when you get a COVID-19 vaccine. Your medical information is private and getting a COVID-19 vaccine does not affect your immigration status. You do not need a government issued ID to get a vaccine.

When do I need to provide proof of vaccination?

Proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is required to be submitted prior to the start date of the program.

How do I provide proof of vaccination?

Proof of vaccination will be collected as part of the program enrollment process. All JVS clients must provide official documentation of vaccination that includes the name of the vaccine you received and the dates you were vaccinated. This documentation may include your CDC Vaccination Card, World Health Organization Yellow Book, or official documentation from a medical provider.

What COVID-19 vaccines will be accepted?

Any COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use in the U.S. will be accepted. Some JVS Clients may be vaccinated in other countries that are using vaccines not yet approved in the United States. In accordance with CDC guidelines for people immunized with vaccines not currently authorized for use in the US, JVS will accept COVID-19 vaccines approved by the World Health Organization. Exemptions are **only** available for medical or religious reasons and must follow JVS's protocols. There are no exceptions.

How will my COVID-19 vaccination data be used?

Your proof of COVID-19 vaccination information will be used internally to prevent and respond to the presence of COVID-19 at JVS and to comply with federal, local and public health guidelines. Your information will be maintained in accordance with our confidentiality protocols and in accordance with all applicable laws and public health regulations.

What if I have lost my proof of COVID-19 Vaccine card?

Everyone who is vaccinated in California can request a digital COVID-19 Vaccination Record at myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov

What does 'fully vaccinated' mean?

According to the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
- You can receive your doses of Pfizer 3-8 weeks apart
- You can receive your doses of Moderna 4-8 weeks apart
- Please speak with your healthcare provider to understand the timing for the second dose. You should **not** get the second dose early.

If it has been less than two weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are not fully protected and should keep taking all prevention measures until you are fully vaccinated.

Am I required to get a booster shot?

Although not required at this time for non-Healthcare Program Clients, the CDC recommends receiving a Booster shot when eligible.

In line with California Department of Public Health regulations, all Healthcare Program clients are required to have a booster shot when eligible to be considered fully vaccinated.

- For those that received the J&J/Janssen 1 Dose, the Booster is due 8 weeks after the 1st Dose.
- For those that received Moderna or Pfizer, the Booster is due 5 months after the 2nd Dose.
- If you received a different vaccine or are not sure which vaccine you received, please reach out to your primary care physician or Client Services Manager, Laura Combs (lcombs@jvs.org) for support in scheduling a Booster.

Are vaccinations required for JVS staff?

Yes, JVS requires COVID-19 vaccinations for all staff.

After vaccination, do I still need to wear face coverings and practice physical distancing?

Yes, at this time. Updates to this will be provided during the course of your program enrollment.

After vaccination, will COVID-19 testing be required?

COVID testing may be required in the case of a prior positive test, exposure, or COVID symptoms. Worksites may require testing as well based on their protocols and guidelines. To find out about your COVID testing options, click one of the links below.

- San Francisco COVID testing sites- <https://datasf.org/covid19-testing-locations/>
- East Bay COVID testing sites- <https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing.page?#Community>

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

If you have any questions please contact Laura Combs, Client Services Manager, at lcombs@jvs.org or (415) 608-3423 for assistance.