



LONG BEACH ISLAND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2119 Long Beach Boulevard, 1st Floor
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008
www.lbihealth.com



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Daniel J. Krupinski, MPH, HO, REHS
Health Officer

Phone: 609-492-1212
Fax: 609-492-9215

Press Release: September 14th, 2023

Covid-19 Monovalent Vaccine for Fall / Winter Virus Season

As so many have relied on Health Departments during the emergency campaign, this new Covid-19 vaccine marks a different phase in the provider landscape. Health Departments will not be supplied vaccine for conducting widespread vaccination. However, vaccines will largely remain available through private providers. This change should not lead to any shortage, as manufacturers are well supplied. The federal government stopped purchasing vaccine and the state ended facilitating distribution that enabled local health departments to offer widespread vaccine.

New COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna were approved September 11, 2023, and have been recommended for everyone 6 months and older. Pharmacies and private clinics will continue offering it. The Department also urge individuals to contact their primary care provider or family physicians.

These changes should not diminish the importance of prevention through immunization and particularly those who are at high risk due to age and/or health status. COVID-19 vaccines remain protective against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from this disease. As the virus changes and your immunity naturally decreases over time, you lose some of that protection. The new Covid immunizations, made by Pfizer, Novavax and Moderna, target a subvariant of omicron, called XBB.1.5. More than 90% of the Covid viruses circulating now are closely related to that strain. If you have not received a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 2 months, get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself this fall and winter. I do expect from here on out Covid-19 will be a seasonal immunization similar to the flu.

We will continue to offer public health recommendations, facilitate finding access to vaccine providers and anything else we can do to assist the community. We thank the many partners and community members that we have encountered these past few years and will continue to serve should there be an emerging issue.

Long Beach Island Residents that are homebound or with lack of internet access or computer literacy who need assistance with navigating scheduling an appointment please call (609) 492-1212.