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*for* **Pharmacists  
Healthier  
Lives**

# Vaccine Confidence Campaign



### What

According to the COVID-19 State Profile Report for Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>, 68% of the total population has received at least one dose, with 54% of total population being fully vaccinated. 52.7% of the total population ages 12-17 have received at least one dose, in contrast to 36.3% of the total population ages 12-17 being fully vaccinated.

Among the most trusted messengers to increase vaccine confidence, pharmacists in Pennsylvania and across the country are committed to addressing the public's concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines and helping increase vaccination numbers. As children and families prepare for the start of the school year, the

### Who

[Pharmacists for Healthier Lives](#) is a national awareness campaign that aims to highlight the important role that pharmacists play in helping people live their healthiest lives.

As part of Jefferson, the College of Pharmacy is a partner in one of the country's most successful and highly recognized inter-professional healthcare learning environments, with a dynamic center of education recognized for progressive care, practice, education and research.

Collaboration is a Jefferson hallmark, and students and faculty have many opportunities to partner with peers across our entire organization and in clinical settings throughout the region.

student pharmacists from Thomas Jefferson University's College of Pharmacy are doing their part to encourage greater vaccine uptake in youth 12 years of age and older and their family members.

On Monday, September 6, Jefferson College of Pharmacy student volunteers will be at the 34th Annual Tri-State Labor Day Parade & Family Celebration in Philadelphia from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The student volunteers will be there for anyone seeing consultation or advice on COVID-19 vaccines. ACME Markets will serve as the vaccine partner for the event, administering COVID-19 vaccinations for those ages 12 and older.

The Jefferson College of Pharmacy benefits from an integral partnership with the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's Department of Pharmacy Services which is nationally renowned for excellence in practice and training.

"We have built something innovative and exciting on top of a 200-year-old legacy of collaborative teaching, research and service uniquely positioned to transform the health and well-being of our community, our country and the world," said Dr. Rebecca Finley, Dean of the Jefferson College of Pharmacy. "Speaking of transformation – there are many exciting transformations happening every day at Jefferson – new clinical advances, technology applications, scientific discoveries, and, of course, education and training programs that are preparing health care's future leaders."

<sup>1</sup> <https://healthdata.gov/Community/COVID-19-State-Profile-Report-Pennsylvania/tkdp-r3p8>

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## When & Where

Monday, September 6, 2021

Clinic hours: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

34th Annual Tri-State Labor Day Parade  
& Family Celebration

Great Plaza at Penn's Landing

101 S Christopher Columbus Blvd

Philadelphia, PA 19106

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## Backgrounder

### The Role of Pharmacists

America's pharmacists are in a unique position to alleviate concerns about vaccine safety and efficacy and to provide the public with information about the importance of receiving vaccinations.

Pharmacists are also among America's [most accessible healthcare professionals](#). Pharmacies are in most communities in the United States, and more than 90% of the U.S. population live within five miles of one. Furthermore, patients visit their community pharmacist 12 times more frequently than their primary care provider.

### Pharmacists for Healthier Lives

[Pharmacists for Healthier Lives](#) is a national awareness campaign led by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and supported by a coalition of national and state pharmacy organizations. The initiative aims to highlight the important role pharmacists play in helping people live their healthiest lives.

In addition to being the critical medication experts at your local pharmacy, pharmacists are on the front lines of every aspect of healthcare. Their knowledge and expertise impacts research, education, clinics and community health programs.

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## Interview Opportunities

Dr. Leon is an associate professor of pharmacy practice at the Thomas Jefferson University College of Pharmacy. He received his Pharm. D. from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (Philadelphia College of Pharmacy). He completed his General Pharmacy Practice Residency at New Mexico Veteran Affairs Health Care System, Albuquerque, NM and his Ambulatory Care Practice Residency at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Baltimore, MD.

Please contact Angela Showell at [angela.showell@jefferson.edu](mailto:angela.showell@jefferson.edu) to schedule an interview.

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Pharmacists are among the most trusted healthcare professionals. According to [Gallup's annual survey](#) of "Most Trusted Professions," it was found that 71% of Americans found pharmacists to be "honest and trustworthy," third only to nurses (89%) and physicians (77%).

Pharmacists are a critical part of the healthcare patients receive. They work in nearly every healthcare setting including hospitals, health clinics, research and academia, as well as retail pharmacies.

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### American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

Founded in 1900, [AACP](#) is the national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education. AACP is comprised of all accredited colleges and schools with pharmacy degree programs, including more than 6,500 faculty, 60,600 students enrolled in professional programs and 4,400 individuals pursuing graduate study.

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# Myths & Facts About COVID-19 Vaccinations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), June 9, 2021

**Q: Do any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States shed or release any of their components?**

**A: No.** Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside of the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened version of the virus. None of the vaccines authorized for use in the United States contain a live virus. The mRNA and viral vector vaccines are the two types of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines available.

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**Q: Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?**

**A: Yes.** If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may get a COVID-19 vaccine.

There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Like all vaccines, scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects now and will continue to study them for many years.

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**Q: If I've already had COVID-19, do I need to get the vaccine? <sup>2</sup>**

**A:** People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before.

**Q: Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?**

**A: No.** COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. There are currently two types of COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized and recommended for use in the United States: messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines and a viral vector vaccine. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the genetic material in the vaccines cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. All COVID-19 vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.

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**Q: Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?**

**A: No.** None of the authorized and recommended [COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States](#) contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. [Learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work.](#)

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact>