



PRESS RELEASE

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New Changes for COVID-19 Vaccines and Testing at Health Departments

Vaccines will now be given *inside* the Columbus Health Department, at 5601 Veterans Parkway. Hours for adult and pediatric vaccines are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Drive-thru testing in Columbus will be held at the Columbus Civic Center, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm through Saturday, January 15th. Beginning Tuesday, January 18th, testing will move to the Shirley B. Winston Recreation Center, 5025 Steam Mill Road. Hours for testing will remain Monday through Saturday, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. There is no charge for vaccines or testing at any health department location.

Pre-registration for testing is strongly encouraged; please visit www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com to register. If anyone needs assistance, please contact our Call Center at 706-653-6613, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

District Vaccination Numbers

<i>County</i>	<i>Fully Vaccinated</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Fully Vaccinated</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Chattahoochee	2,185	21	Quitman	794	35
Clay	1,997	68	Randolph	3,230	46
Crisp	9,785	43	Schley	1,850	35
Dooly	5,038	37	Stewart	2,117	34
Harris	15,018	44	Sumter	15,321	51
Macon	5,645	42	Talbot	3,017	48
Marion	3,447	41	Taylor	3,673	45
Muscogee	80,499	41	Webster	1,174	45

The number of residents fully vaccinated in our district is 154,790.

Booster Doses

All three COVID vaccines – Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen – have been given EUA for *booster* doses for those 18 and older. The Pfizer vaccine has been given EUA for *booster* doses for those 12 and older. For those who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, the booster shot should be at least five months after their initial series. All those who received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who received their initial dose two or more months ago.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose, except for those under 18; Pfizer is the only brand that has been given EUA for boosters for this age group. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received and others, may prefer to get a different brand. The CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Additional Doses

An *additional* primary (third) dose of the Pfizer vaccine is available for those who are severely or moderately immunocompromised aged five and older. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for children aged five to 17. The Moderna vaccine is approved for those aged 18 and older. These persons may bring documentation from their healthcare provider, or self-attest on the immunization consent form as to their health status. Additional third doses of Pfizer or Moderna must be given at least 28 days after the second dose.

Vaccine Locations

The Columbus Health Department is giving all brands of vaccines inside the clinic Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for those five years of age and older, at 5601 Veterans Parkway. Appointments are preferred, but not required. Please visit www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com to make an appointment and for district locations, or www.vaccines.gov to find a location near you.

Drive-thru Testing is now being held at the Columbus Civic Center, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm through Saturday, January 15th. Beginning January 18th, testing will be at the Shirley B. Winston Recreation Center, 5025 Steam Mill Road, in Columbus. Hours will remain Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please visit www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com to pre-register, and for testing days and times at other health departments.

COVID-19 Cases

County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.		County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.	
		Cases	Deaths			Cases	Deaths
Chattahoochee	5,585	81	16	Quitman	164	41	3
Clay	266	29	4	Randolph	682	63	40
Crisp	2,062	186	66	Schley	386	37	8
Dooly	1,233	138	38	Stewart	1,510	90	30
Harris	3,928	572	86	Sumter	3,296	420	134
Macon	1,010	150	40	Talbot	743	131	29
Marion	761	84	32	Taylor	915	136	34
Muscogee	25,633	3,709	595	Webster	203	25	7

The cumulative number of reported cases in the West Central Health District is 48,377. The number of cases in the last two weeks is 5,892. The death toll from the virus currently stands at 1,167.

Current CDC Prevention Guidance

The CDC recommends that all persons, fully vaccinated or not, wear a mask in any public indoor location. Physical distancing is also recommended, as well as these guidelines:

- **Wash your hands** often for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay home** when you are sick.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.

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