



COVID-19 Update Variants and Vaccines

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What is a variant?

- Viruses constantly change through mutations that create new strains of virus
- A variant is a version of the virus that possesses mutations that differ from its parent virus
- Some virus variants emerge and then disappear, while others persist or become common
- Through active genomic surveillance, scientists can identify variants that are concerning, requiring further study and precautions
- Public Health becomes concerned about a SARS-CoV-2 variant when it affects COVID-19 transmission, severity, testing, treatment, or vaccine effectiveness

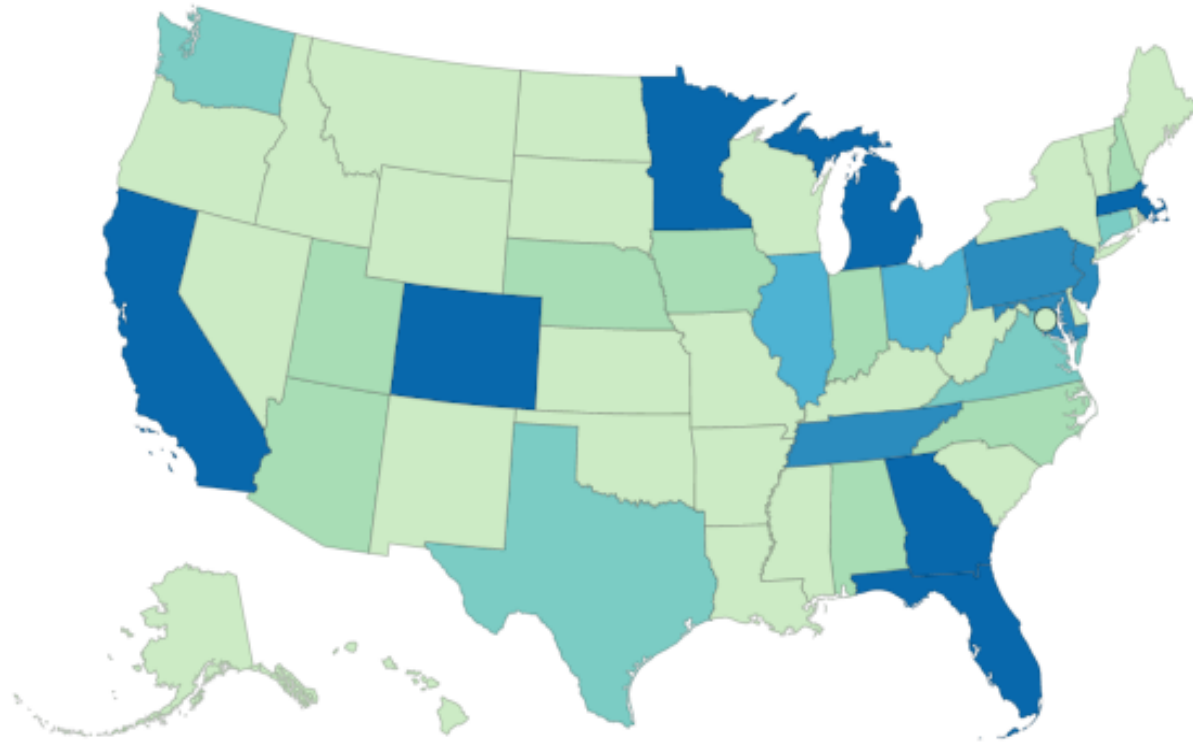
Variant classification for SARS-CoV-2

- There are three classifications of variants:
 - The term **variant of interest** (VOI) is used to describe a newly emerging variant for which the medical and public health importance is not yet known
 - If a variant is thought to be more contagious or likely to cause greater illness or severe disease, or may impact treatment or vaccine response, then it is considered a **variant of concern** (VOC)
 - A **variant of high consequence** (VOHC) has clear evidence that prevention measures or medical countermeasures (MCMs) have significantly reduced effectiveness relative to previously circulating variants. ***There are currently no variants that rise to the level of high consequence***

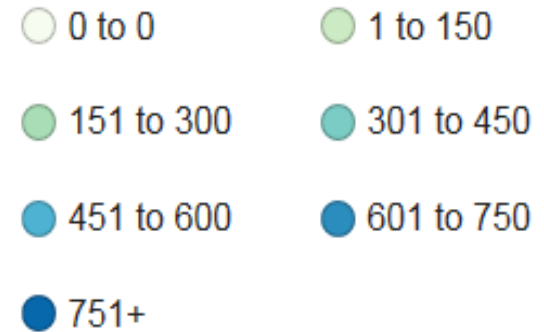
Variants of Concern

- There are current 5 Variant of Concern (VOC) in the United States:
 - **B.1.1.7**: initially detected in the UK, first identified in the US in December 2020
 - **B.1.351**: initially detected in South Africa in December 2020, first identified in the US at the end of January 2021
 - **P.1**: initially identified in travelers from Brazil, who were tested during routine screening at an airport in Japan, in early January. First detected in the US in January 2021
 - **B.1.427 and B.1.429**: These two variants were first identified in California in February 2021 and were classified as VOCs in March 2021.

Cases of Variants of Concern in the United States*†



Number of Cases



Filters

Variant B.1.1.7 ▼

Territories

AS

GU

MH

FM

MP

PW

PR

VI



Variants of Interest (VOI)

- There are three VOIs being tracked in the United States:
 - B.1.526 – first detected in New York in November of 2020
 - B.1.525- first detected in New York in December of 2020
 - P.2-first detected in Brazil in April 2020
- You may have heard about a variant in the headlines be called the “double mutant.” This particular variant is thought to have originated in India where it makes up 15-20% of cases in one region. There is not much more info available on this variant yet and CDC has not yet added this variant to the list

What can we do?

- The most effective way to reduce the emergence and spread of variants is to [reduce transmission](#).
- A virus can't mutate if it is not replicating, and it can't replicate without a host.
- Vaccination is key – the faster we can get people vaccinated, the more likely we will be able to slow spread of the virus.
- Continue [masking](#) (with more consistent use and [better masks](#)), distancing, and avoidance of large public gatherings/crowds

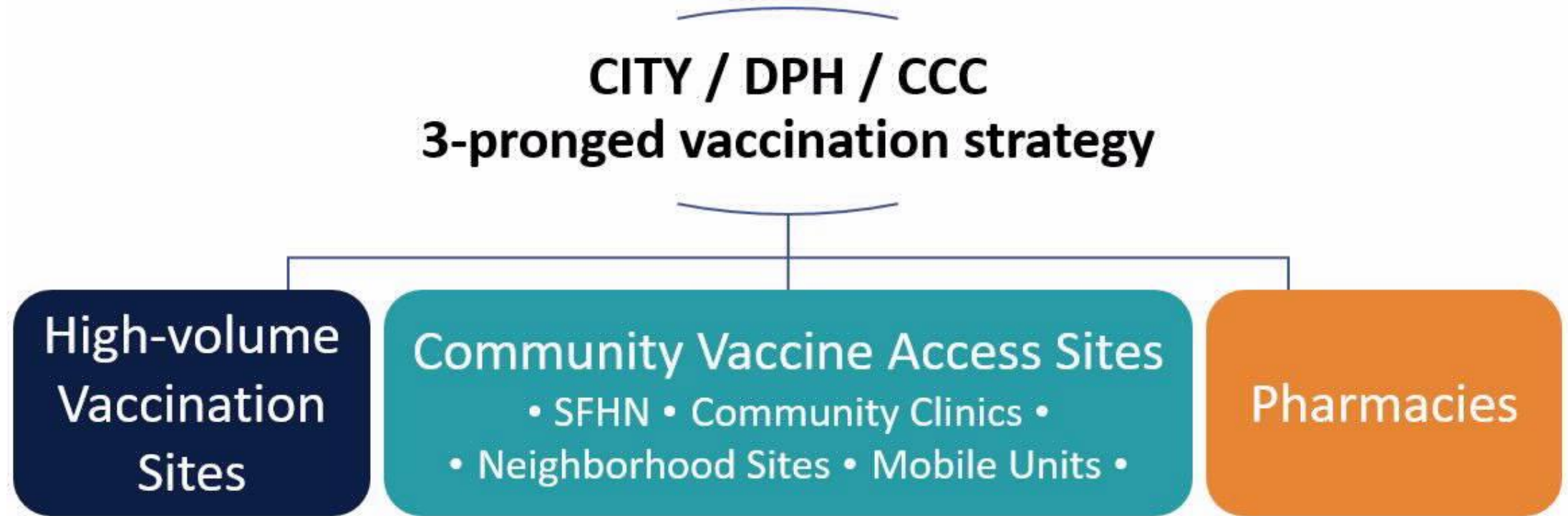
Vaccines

There are currently three approved vaccines
in the U.S.



Vaccination Strategy

SF has the capacity to facilitate 20,000 vaccines per day



Accessing vaccines in San Francisco

- Every Californian age 16 and above is currently eligible for a vaccine
- Book appointments through:
 - [SF.gov/getvaccinated](https://sf.gov/getvaccinated)
 - myturn.ca.gov/
- SF Call Center: (628) 652-2700
- Supplies are still limited

The screenshot displays the San Francisco COVID-19 vaccination website. The top section, titled "Get vaccinated against COVID-19", includes a sub-header: "If you are eligible and live or work in SF, sign up for an appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccine." Below this, a dark blue box contains two columns of text. The left column, under the heading "Eligibility", states: "We are vaccinating people 16 years and older, who live or work in SF." and "People under 18 can only get the Pfizer vaccine, and need permission from a parent or guardian to be vaccinated. However, not all sites will have the Pfizer vaccine. Check when you book." The right column, under the heading "Supply remains limited now, but we expect more supply soon", states: "Even if you are eligible, there may not be a dose available right now." and "Keep checking for available appointments." Below the dark blue box, the "What to do" section is titled "Book an appointment at a general public vaccine site" and explains that the city is partnering with healthcare providers. It includes a "Search vaccine sites" button and notes that more sites will be added as they become available. The "Cost" section states that vaccines are free for people who live and work in San Francisco. The "Insurance" section is also present. On the right side, a "Get help" section provides contact information for questions and a link to "Find out more about the COVID-19 vaccine in San Francisco". A "Related" section at the bottom right offers a link to "Get notified when you're eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine" and mentions getting a text or email when eligible to receive the vaccine.

Get vaccinated against COVID-19

If you are eligible and live or work in SF, sign up for an appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Eligibility

We are vaccinating people 16 years and older, who live or work in SF.

People under 18 can only get the Pfizer vaccine, and need permission from a parent or guardian to be vaccinated. However, not all sites will have the Pfizer vaccine. Check when you book.

Supply remains limited now, but we expect more supply soon

Even if you are eligible, there may not be a dose available right now.

Keep checking for available appointments.

What to do

Book an appointment at a general public vaccine site

The City is partnering with healthcare providers to operate vaccine sites for people who live or work in San Francisco.

If you need to reschedule a second dose appointment, contact the location where you got your first dose. If you booked an appointment to get a first dose, you must book an appointment to get your second dose.

[Search vaccine sites](#)

We will add more sites as they become available.

Cost

Vaccines are free to people who live and work in San Francisco.

Insurance

Get help

If you have questions about the vaccine, talk to your healthcare provider.

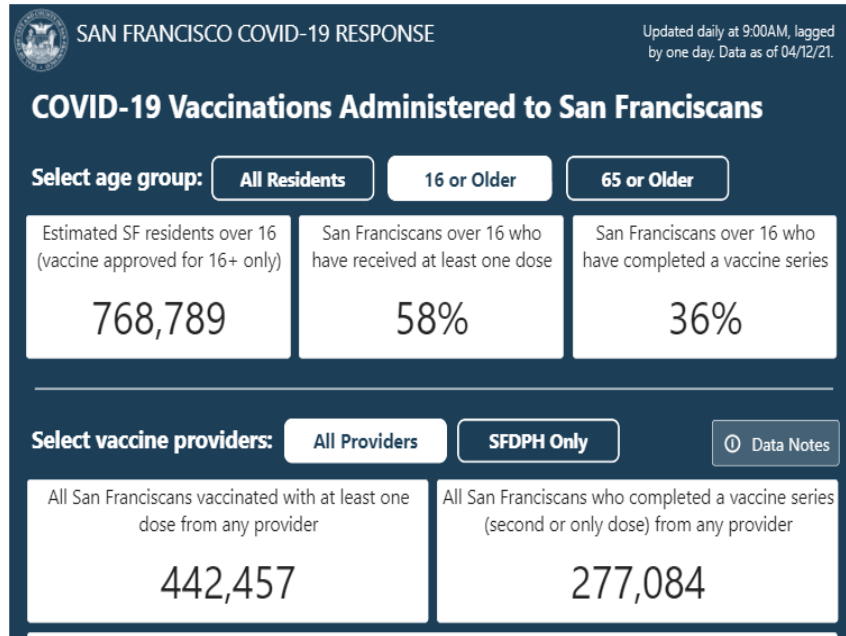
[Find out more about the COVID-19 vaccine in San Francisco](#)

Related

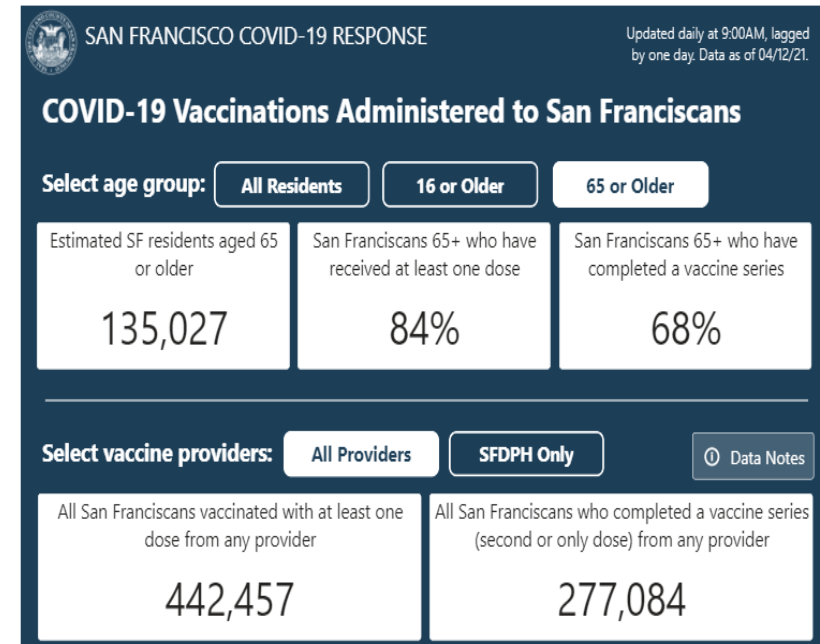
[Get notified when you're eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Get a text or email when you are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Vaccination progress in San Francisco



San Franciscans 16+



San Franciscans 65+

(as of 4/13/2021)

Resources



Variants

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

Vaccines

- [SF.gov/getvaccinated](https://sf.gov/getvaccinated)
- myturn.ca.gov/
- SF Call Center: (628) 652-2700