

Governor Walz Joins President Biden Initiative to Slow COVID-19 Case Growth, Announces \$100 Reward for New COVID-19 Vaccinations

With the Delta variant pushing cases up in Minnesota and across the country, Governor joins national effort outlined in the President's speech to fight COVID-19 as fall approaches and kids go back to school

Any Minnesotan 12 and older who gets their first COVID-19 shot July 30 through August 15 will receive \$100 to spend however they choose

Today, Governor Tim Walz announced that Minnesota is joining the Biden Administration's initiative to provide \$100 to all Minnesotans age 12 and older who roll up their sleeves and get their COVID-19 vaccine from July 30 through August 15. With the Delta variant pushing cases up in Minnesota and across the country, the Governor is joining a national effort – outlined in the President's speech today – to fight the rise of COVID-19 as fall approaches and students go back to school.

“President Biden is calling for a nationwide push to make sure our families and communities are vaccinated and protected against COVID-19 and the Delta variant, and Minnesota is ready to join the effort,” said Governor Walz. **“We have made so much progress to combat this virus. We cannot give up ground now, especially with students returning to the classroom this fall. Getting paid \$100 to keep your family safe is a pretty good deal – all you have to do is roll up your sleeves.”**

“With school right around the corner, there is no better time to get vaccinated than right now,” said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. **“This shot is your ticket to keeping your loved ones, especially our children under 12, safe. The Delta variant is no match for our will to protect our fellow Minnesotans. Now, you’ll even get \$100 for your time.”**

Minnesotans 12 years of age and older who receive their first dose between Friday, July 30 and Sunday, August 15, 2021 will be eligible for a \$100 Visa gift card. Beginning Wednesday, August 4, Minnesotans can verify their first dose and claim their \$100 at: mn.gov/covid19. More details will be announced soon.

Governor Walz will authorize up to \$2.5 million in American Rescue Plan funding to start up the program, will seek legislative approval for additional funding to sustain the program for its duration, and will work with the State Legislature, foundations, and nonprofits on a public-private partnership to stand up a subsequent grant program to provide Minnesotans, especially those in vulnerable and underserved communities, real-time incentives to get their shot.

How Minnesotans can get their Free Shot:

- Walk in or make an appointment through the Vaccine Connector:
VaccineConnector.mn.gov.
 - Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Public Hotline

- 1-833-431-2053
- Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. & Sat, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Use the state’s Vaccine Locator Map to find a vaccine provider near you:
<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/locations/index.jsp>.
- Check for vaccine appointments using the Vaccine Finder on
<https://www.vaccines.gov/> You can search for appointments by vaccine type (e.g., Pfizer).
- Contact your primary health care provider or a local pharmacy.
- Employers may also reach out with information about vaccination opportunities.