

# SGCDC

## Spring Garden CDC's Covid-19 Neighborhood Navigation Guide

July 9, 2021 Update

A lot has happened in our community, in Philadelphia, and in the country since our last Guide update. The Covid-19 vaccine, once hard to come by, is now readily available throughout the U.S. to anyone who wants it, age 12 and up, although it is still in short supply in many other countries. Many in the U.S. have been vaccinated - - more so in some places than in others - - although not enough to achieve “herd immunity” or to eliminate the danger posed by the Delta variant, especially in low-vaccine areas. State and Local incentives have been offered in many areas to boost vaccination numbers. Covid-19 precautions and closures are ending in most locales and the economy is reopening.

Should we be concerned about the new Delta variant, or new variants of the Delta variant, and a potential resurgence of the virus? How long will immunities last for those who have been fully vaccinated? For Covid survivors? Will there be booster shots needed? What’s new in the community? Read on for the latest neighborhood and Covid-19 news.

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### *Update on State and Local Covid-19 Restrictions, There Aren't Currently Very Many Remaining in Our Area*

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**Pennsylvania Has Lifted Most Mandatory Covid-19 Restrictions, including mask mandates, social distancing, and occupancy limits (except those promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “CDC”); and the PA State legislature has voted to end the Governor’s emergency powers used to combat Covid-19.** Per the CDC Guidelines, masks should still be worn on all forms of public transportation including airplanes and in airports, in hospitals, long term care facilities, homeless shelters, and in some business settings.

**Philadelphia Has its Own Covid-19 Guidelines; Most Mask and Social Distancing, Requirements Have Been Lifted, as Well as Capacity Limits for Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings and Businesses.** However, masks must still be worn in

Philadelphia on public transit, at schools, summer camps, certain health care institutions, and congregate facilities. ***It is also recommended that unvaccinated individuals continue to wear masks indoors, even when not required.*** Some businesses and professionals also still require masks. **Check before you go.**

**One Unfortunate Development From the Loss of the Governor's Emergency Powers is that To-Go Cocktails, which kept many restaurants going during the pandemic, are no longer allowed** without reapplication to the LCB on an emergency basis.

**Will the City Continue to Allow "Streeteries" - - Outdoor Dining in Parking Lanes - - Another Lifeline for Restaurants, Designed To Assist Restaurants During the Pandemic?** The City Council authorization for them is apparently still set to expire on December 31, 2021.

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### *Update on Local Businesses*

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**The Vast Majority of Our Local Restaurants and Other Community Businesses Have Survived the Worst of the Pandemic and Continue to Soldier On.** They were a bright light for the community during the pandemic shutdown, providing comfort food and other needed products, and a continuing neighborhood vibrancy. **Please continue to patronize them.**

**Four New Businesses, a Boutique Hotel, and a Pediatric Dentist Have Opened, Or Will Do So Soon, in the Community, as the Pandemic Recovery Continues:**

**Made With Love Juicery, LLC Opened in the Spring at 547 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Street (just above Spring Garden St.) Providing Healthy Juices and Other Offerings, including Delicious Sandwiches.** Hours are Tues.-Fri. 7 AM to 7 PM, Sat. 8 AM to 7 PM, and Sun. 8 AM to 4 PM. Stop by to see the delightful hand painted décor and say hello to Proprietor Latoya Brown Faison. You can also check in with them at @lovejuice8 & [www.lovejuicery.net](http://www.lovejuicery.net).

**Pier Bar: The Owners of Fare Restaurant Have Recently Opened a Seafood Restaurant at 2025 Fairmount Ave,** at the site of the former Hickory Lane

Restaurant, at Fairmount and Corinthian Aves. Service is outdoors, only, for now, until the fall, at their sidewalk seating area and streetery. Seating is first come, first served. Hours are currently Monday to Saturday 5PM to 11 PM. Check their menu at [www.pierbarphilly.com](http://www.pierbarphilly.com), and/or visit their social media for more information.

**T&N Fitness Studio, an All-Women Fitness Boutique, Has Opened at 559 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Street (20<sup>th</sup> and Brandywine Streets).** This is the second all-women private fitness boutique for proprietor Jenna Fisher. (The other is on East Passyunk Ave.). Check out their website at [www.trainandnourish.com](http://www.trainandnourish.com) and stop by to say hello.

**An Affordable Veterinary Service, THRIVE Affordable Vet Care, will Open Soon at 18<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden Streets** at the site of the former Golden Chopstick. Visit their website at [www.ThriveVet.com](http://www.ThriveVet.com) for more information.

**A Handsome New Boutique Hotel, “Maj”, Will Open Soon at 2225 Spring Garden Street, Across from the Art Museum.** Spring Garden resident and SGCA Board member Ian Cope was the project architect. The hotel name is the last name of the developer, Marek Maj.

**Spring Garden Resident Maria Cordero, DDM, MS, MPH, is Opening a Pediatric Dental Practice (Philadelphia Pediatric Dentistry) at 2000 Hamilton Street, Suite 304.** Experienced and highly trained, and a faculty member at the Temple Dental School, Maria is bringing her pediatric dental expertise to private practice in our community on or about July 8. Call for an appointment at 267-507-1064 or [www.phillypediatricdental.com](http://www.phillypediatricdental.com).

#### **Other Business News:**

**Thirsty Dice, 1642 Fairmount Ave. (17<sup>th</sup> Street Side) has Reopened Again as a Board Game Café.** Check hours and offerings and their new menu at [www.thirstydice.com](http://www.thirstydice.com). Thirsty Dice survived the pandemic by selling takeout food and drinks, groceries, and other items.

**The Neighborhood Potters, 2034 Fairmount Ave.,** continues to provide creative jewelry and pottery online and in-store, with curbside pickup still available. Also, their **retail store is now open Saturdays 12 to 4 PM, and**

starting July 18, on Sundays as well, 12 to 4 PM. They will celebrate 21 years on Fairmount Ave. on September 24-26. They are also restarting their popular classes with registration starting August 16. All students must be vaccinated. Visit [www.sandiandneil.com](http://www.sandiandneil.com).

**Word is that Gourmet Italian Restaurant A Mano, 2244 Fairmount Ave, will reopen on July 14!**

**Cicala Restaurant at the Divine Lorraine Hotel Reopened in May, including, most recently, for Sunday dinner, and including a family Neapolitan Dinner for the whole table. Check their website for hours and offerings, [www.cicalarestaurant.com](http://www.cicalarestaurant.com).**

**Fairmount Pharmacy, 1900 Green Street, and Parkway Pharmacy, at the Philadelphian, have provided thousands of vaccine doses for community residents. Thank you for your dedication!**

**The Fine Wines & Good Spirits store at 1935 Fairmount Ave. has moved.** The new location is at The Granary, 411 N. 20<sup>th</sup> St. (at 20<sup>th</sup> & Callowhill Sts.). The new 8326 sqft store is much larger, spread out over 2 floors of the historic former grain elevator. For more information on the new store, click [here](#) for the PLCB press release on the new store. The former 4000 sqft location is now listed for rent.

***Please continue to support our local restaurants and other businesses to help them recover from the adverse effects of the pandemic.***

**Rite Aid, 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Fairmount Ave., Has A New Look:** All Rite Aid stores are being repainted gray, with new signage. They are also proposing a complete makeover of the 19<sup>th</sup> and Fairmount store, but, sadly, to date, have declined to share their plans, ahead of time, with the community. We will have to wait until after they apply to the City to see what they are proposing.

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## *Other Neighborhood News*

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**SGCDC is honored that State Rep Donna Bullock will be sponsoring a pop up office in our community, at the SGCDC's offices, 601 N. 17th St., on Wednesday July 21 from 11 AM to 3 PM.** Please stop by if you need assistance with a State matter, or just to greet Representative Bullock and her staff.

**Eastern State Penitentiary Is Offering Daytime Tours, Wed.- Sun. 10AM to 5PM, and Twilight Tours, Thurs.-Sat. Also, Relax in the Triple Bottom Beer Garden In The Yard Inside the Penitentiary Walls.** For tickets and more information, visit their website at [www.Easternstate.org](http://www.Easternstate.org).

**The “Ruth Herd Little Free Library” at Roberto Clemente Playground, 18<sup>th</sup> and Wallace Streets, Designed and Built by Local Artist and SGCA Board Member Brad Jamula, Was Inaugurated on June 9, 2021.** Sponsored by SGCA, SGCDC and Friends of Waring, the Library has a supply of adults’ and kids’ books in English and Spanish. Please feel free to drop by to borrow a book or donate a book. The Library honors long-time resident and former SGCA Board Member Ruth Herd, who passed away in 2019.

**The Purvis House, at 1601 Mt Vernon Street, newly stabilized by the SGCDC (and with historically restored front and side façades), is now for sale for redevelopment for residential use.** The shell property is zoned for 5 units, as of right. Contact Jeff Block at 215-833-7088 for more information regarding this great residential development opportunity, at a prime location in our community.

**A 50,000 Square Foot Giant Food Store Will Open at the New Alterra High Rise Project at Broad and Spring Garden Streets, Once the Site is Completed,** expected to be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022.

**“The Spring Gardens” Will Celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September 2021, postponed for a year because of the pandemic.** A Whole Community celebration, and including an event with our terrific public officials/former officials, who made it all possible, from inception, to today, are being planned. Stay tuned!

**Check out the Attractive New Landscaping on the exterior Perimeter of The Spring Gardens, installed this Spring by SGCDC**, with the invaluable assistance of Doris Stahl, a Garden Member, expert horticulturalist, and Chair of the Garden's Horticultural Committee.

**City Trash Pickup Has Been Delayed in Much of the City, With Many Sanitation Workers Out Sick and A Lot of Trucks Down from the Heat.** Be patient!

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### *SGCDC Partnership Programs With the SGCA and Residents*

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**SGCDC Has Teamed up With Community Residents and Fairmount Pharmacy, 1900 Green Street, to provide prescription copays and other pharmacy products** for families and individuals in need in the community.

**SGCDC Also Partnered with SGCA, Neighborhood Residents, Thirsty Dice, and Bar Hygge, to Provide 2020-21 Holiday Meals to Food-Insecure Families, and with Community Residents and the Roberto Clemente Playground to Provide Scholarships for Deserving Children For The 2021 Summer Day Camp.** A big thank you to the very generous residents and businesses who contributed to these programs!

**SGCDC is Participating in a One Year 75% State Tax Credit Program for Business Donors, Who Provide Specified Goods, Services or Cash Donations to SGCDC, to Assist Low-Income At-Risk Residents In Our Community In A Variety of Ways.**

For more information about how your business can participate in the program, and help our community's residents in need, email [info@springgardencdc.com](mailto:info@springgardencdc.com)

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### *The Covid-19 Vaccines, Who is Eligible, Where to Get It, and Why It Is Important To Do So, Incentives*

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**It is Now Far Easier to Get a Covid Vaccination (for those individuals that are able), for Anyone Age 12 and Older, Who Wishes to Do So, and a Far Cry From the Scramble of Early This Year.** The vaccine has been authorized for emergency use for individuals ages 12 and up, see below. There are no longer any age

parameters on eligibility to schedule to receive a vaccine, as there were earlier this year.

**Fairmount Pharmacy, 1900 Green Street**, is still offering the vaccine, by registration at [www.fairmountpharmacy.com](http://www.fairmountpharmacy.com) or walk-up vaccinations for those who are unable to schedule online. Pharmacy hours are M-F 9AM to 6PM, Sat. 9AM to 1PM. 215-567-0364.

**Parkway Pharmacy, at The Philadelphian, 2400 Fairmount Ave.**, also has the vaccine. Call 215-642-1311, as do **Rite Aid, Walgreens, and other pharmacy chains.**

**Check out Health Systems such as Jefferson and Penn.**

**Click [here](#) for the City's vaccine locator and pop-up clinic information.**

**The City Also Has a Hotline for Those Without Internet to Make Appointments. Call 215-685-5488 and press 1, during business hours, or call 311.**

**What Vaccines are Available and For What Ages?** Pfizer and Moderna are both 2 dose mRNA vaccines (messenger RNA), using a technology that had been in development in this country and elsewhere for many years. In trials, both were shown to be highly effective against the then-dominant strain of Covid-19 (but not 100%), **Pfizer is approved for emergency use by the FDA for individuals ages 12 and up, Moderna for age 16 and up, and J&J for ages 18 years and older** (using different technology). Pfizer requires 2 doses, 3 weeks apart, Moderna requires 2 doses, 4 weeks apart. J&J is a one dose vaccine. **Moderna has also requested FDA emergency use authorization of its vaccine for ages 12 to 17, and J&J is also testing its vaccine for use for ages 12 to 17.** The Astra Zeneca vaccine has not been approved for use in the U.S., nor any other vaccine (other than those mentioned above). **See below for the effectiveness of the 3 vaccines against the new Delta variant.**

**Are There Any Covid-19 Vaccines Available For Children Under the Age of 12, or Will There Be Soon?** Pfizer is currently conducting trials on a vaccine for children ages between 6 months and 11 years. Moderna is also in trials for a vaccine for children in these same age groups. **Pfizer hopes to apply to the FDA for emergency use authorization of its vaccine for ages 5 to 11 in September 2021.**

**If You Had Covid-19, Should You Also Be Vaccinated? The Answer is a Clear “YES”.** Immunities from having had the disease appear to be far weaker than from full doses of the vaccine. Some studies have shown that Covid-19 survivors’ antibodies offer 4-times less protection.

**Is it important to Get The Second Shot of a 2-Dose Vaccine? Another clear “YES”.** While one shot provides some protection, one shot barely provides any protection at all against the newly dominant variant, Delta. See below for additional Delta variant information.

**Philadelphia, Like Many Other Jurisdictions, Has Been Offering Cash Incentives to Boost Vaccination Rates.** The last drawing currently scheduled is July 19. Register at [www.PhillyVaxSweepstakes.com](http://www.PhillyVaxSweepstakes.com), text “Phillyvax” to 215-608-9799, or call 877-642-5666. Prizes include \$50,000, \$5000, and \$1000.

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### *Covid-19 Information, Current Numbers, Variants, Statistics*

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**Over 4 Million Individuals Are Known to Have Died of Covid-19 Worldwide, Although the Figure is Suspected to Be Much Higher, and There Have Been Over 185 Million Cases.** The first million deaths were in the first 9 months of the pandemic, the 2<sup>nd</sup> million in 3 ½ months, and the 4<sup>th</sup> in 2 ½ months. India has seen a surge of cases this Spring, and Latin America has been ravaged, including especially Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. **Even England, where vaccination rates are high, has seen a spike in cases from the Delta variant, where Delta accounts for nearly 100% of new cases, although fewer cases have led to hospitalization and death.**

**The U.S. Has Reported Over 606,000 deaths, to date, From Covid-19.**

**Virtually All New Covid-19 Deaths in the U.S. Are Of Those Individuals Who Had Not Been Vaccinated, And Most Are in the Midwest and Southeast, Where Vaccination Rates Are Precariously Low.**

**President Biden’s Goal of 70% of U.S. Residents Having Received at Least One Dose of the Vaccine by July 4 Was Not Met in the Country as a Whole, Even Though it is Available.** Some states are close to the 70%; others are lagging far



behind. While the vaccines are now available in the U.S. to anyone who wants one, ages 12 and up, demand has dropped off. Some decline the vaccine because it was “developed in a rush” (not true, the technology has been around for years), or because of fear of side effects, misinformation, their political beliefs, or the mistaken belief that the pandemic is over. **Some parents are reluctant to have their kids vaccinated, although many of the new cases are now among young people.**

**Some 55.2% U.S. Residents Have Received One Dose of the Vaccine, and 47.7% the second dose, a far cry from the number said to be needed for herd immunity (70 to 80%).** And many states lag even further behind, for example Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, Colorado, Utah, South Dakota. **Missouri leads the nation with over 1,000 new cases a day, about the same as the entire Northeast.**

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### *The Delta Variant And Why We Should Be Concerned About It*

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**Delta is Said to be 60% More Contagious Than the Alpha Variant, and Twice as Contagious as the Original Strain of the Virus Prevalent in the U.S.**

**The Delta Variant Is Rapidly Becoming the Dominant Strain Worldwide, and in the U.S.** The Delta variant, first detected in India, was responsible for the huge surge of cases and deaths in that country earlier this year. Delta is now present in over 100 countries and has been described as a “super spreader strain.”

**Over 50% of New U.S. Cases Are From the Delta Variant, Up 100% in Just Over Two Weeks, and It is Expanding Exponentially.** In some low-vaccine areas, such as Missouri, the Delta variant accounts for over 80% of new cases.

**While the Vaccines Have Side Effects, They Are Mostly Mild and Pass Quickly; By contrast, some 30% of Covid-19 patients experience long term effects, some that can be devastating.** See the March 16, 2021 Guide. Unvaccinated individuals can also spread the disease, including to more vulnerable individuals, and put health care professionals at risk if they become infected.

**Why Are Low Vaccination Rates in Some Areas, New Cases, and New Variants So Concerning?** A variant is a mutation of the virus. The more cases there are, the

more chances the virus has to mutate and re-mutate. Many health officials are concerned that we are in a “race against time,” to vaccinate, and to stop the spread of the virus faster than it can mutate. ***Once the virus mutates, and the mutations (variants) become the dominant strain, the threat is that the new strains are more lethal and transmissible, and will produce other strains that are more lethal, and that the vaccines developed to date may not be as effective, or that you can contract a new version of the virus even if you have already had it once. See below for the effectiveness of the vaccines.***

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*Immunities, Including Against the Delta Variant,  
Vaccine Effectiveness*

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**The Jury is Still Out on How Effective the 3 Vaccines are Against the Delta Variant, But Most Studies Show Substantial Protection, After Full Vaccination.**

**However, As Scientists Have More Experience With Delta, and/or as the Delta Variant Itself Mutates, That Information Could Change, Including How Long Protections Last, or How Efficiently.**

**When Does Immunity Start and How Long Does It Last?** In general, people are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their final vaccine dose, but it is unclear how long immunities last from an infection or from the vaccine, including against Delta. **Fortunately, we live in an area where vaccination rates are high. The best advice is to avoid areas of the country, or the world, where vaccination rates are low and wear masks and practice social distancing if you must travel there. Follow CDC guidelines.**

**Will We Need A Booster Shot?** Pfizer has just announced “waning immunity” from its vaccine and plans to seek emergency use authorization from the FDA for a booster shot in August. **But the FDA and CDC say that Americans who have received 2 doses of the vaccine do not need a booster and we need to concentrate on vaccinating the remaining population. Stay tuned for more information.**

**To Protect Against New More Lethal and Transmissible Strains of the Virus Now, We Need to Eradicate it Worldwide, a Daunting Task, see Below.**

**Will We Have to Get/Be Able to Get A Yearly Covid-19 Shot Going Forward?** As yet this is unknown, including whether it is practical with so many unvaccinated.

**Can I Still Contract or Spread the Virus Even If I Got Vaccinated?** The short answer is that the chance of contracting the virus or becoming seriously ill with the virus, after being fully vaccinated is low, but you can probably spread it. Again, however, not much is yet known about the Delta variant.

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## *State and Federal Governmental Covid-19 Issues*

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**The Public Utility Commission Ruled That Shutoffs for PUC Regulated Utilities (PGW and PECO) could resume shut offs on March 31.** Click [here](#) for more information and for links to assistance programs.

**The Administration Has Extended the Federal Eviction Moratorium Until July 31, 2021.** Will it be extended beyond that? The problem with moratoriums, however, is that the debt doesn't go away, it just keeps accumulating.

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## *Other Countries, How Are They Doing? The Olympics*

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**The Virus is Still Running Rampant in Parts of Asia, Africa, and South America.** The World Health Organization, "WHO," has reported that more than 12 countries have reported epidemic curves that are almost vertical.

**Some 11 Billion Vaccine Doses Are Required To Rein in the Virus Worldwide; Only 3.3 Billion Have Been Administered To Date.**

**Now That Much of the U.S. Is Vaccinated, After a Surge in Cases in 2020, The U.S. Has Committed to Providing Hundreds of Millions of Doses to Other Countries,** and Other Wealthy Nations Have Committed to Providing Billions in Donations to Covax To Fund Vaccine Worldwide.

**Japan Has Announced Another State of Emergency Right Before the Tokyo Summer Olympics, and is Now Barring All Spectators From the Games, Because of Covid-19 Fears.**

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## *Other Health Issues*

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**Don't Forget To Get Your Flu Shot This Year By The End of October; Doing it Earlier, In The Summer, Risks Loss of Protection Before the End of Flu Season.**

Per the CDC, children should be vaccinated sooner, because they need 2 doses, 4 weeks apart, to gain protection from the flu.

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## *Recreation, Events, Cultural Institutions*

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**Eastern State Penitentiary Is Offering Both Daytime Tours, Wednesday through Sunday 10AM to 5PM, and Twilight Tours, Thurs.-Sat. Relax in the Triple Bottom Beer Garden Inside the Penitentiary Walls.** Tickets are on sale now online. You can also support them by becoming a member. Also, view interesting online content, make a purchase at their online store, and/or participate in their First Tuesday speaker program, the very informative **"Searchlight" Series, the First Tuesday of Every Month, 6 PM to 7 PM, by Zoom or on Facebook.** Visit their Events site [here](#) for more information.

**Mural Arts Started Up Its Popular Walking Tours Again in the Spring.** New routes are also being offered. Visit [www.muralarts.org/tours](http://www.muralarts.org/tours) to sign up.

**The Philadelphia Museum of Art** reopened January 8 with new hours, Sat., Sun., Mon. 10AM to 5PM, Fri 10AM to 8:45PM. Pay what you wish Fri. 5PM to 8:45, Advance ticket purchase recommended. The **Barnes Foundation** is open Friday to Monday, 11AM to 5PM. **The Rodin Museum** is now open Monday through Friday 10AM to 5PM. **Perelman** is still temporarily closed.

**All of Our City's Cultural Institutions Have Been Hit Hard by the Pandemic Restrictions; Become a Member, and/or Make a Donation, if You Are Able, to Help them Weather the Pandemic.** Become a member now!

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## *Financial*

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### **Stimulus Payments of \$1400 Were Provided For in the Last Stimulus Package.**

Click [here](#) to use the IRS “Where’s My Stimulus Payment” tool if you didn’t get your payment.

### **The IRS is Way Behind in Processing Tax Returns and Issuing Refunds as They Have Struggled to Distribute Stimulus Checks.**

**Stimulus Payments from the December 2020 Legislation.** Click [here](#) to visit the IRS Payment Status site, where you can now setup an account to track your first or second stimulus payment status. ***If you didn’t get your payment, or received less than the full amount, you can claim it on a 2020 tax return as a Recovery Rebate Credit.***

### **Unemployment Benefits Are Taxable. However, Under the Recent Stimulus Legislation, the First \$10,200 Received in 2020 is Tax Free.**

### **Interest Rates, Which Were at an All-Time Low, Have Now Crept Up to Fight Potential Inflation.**

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## *Local Businesses – Current Offerings*

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We are in the process of updating our list of local businesses and their current offerings. All businesses are now allowed to operate without Covid-19 restrictions, although some still require masks. To our knowledge, all restaurants that previously had outdoor dining and food and beer takeout still do, see the March 16, 2021 Guide. However, takeout mixed drinks are no longer legal without further LCB authorization. Some restaurants have also started to offer indoor dining. Call before you go to check hours, offerings, curbside pickup, and any mask or other requirements.