What New Yorkers Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccines save lives. When you get vaccinated, you are helping to protect yourself from COVID-19 and making your community safer. New York City (NYC) is committed to keeping everyone safe and healthy. This includes providing people with the information they need to make informed decisions about vaccination and making sure that vaccine access is fair and equitable.

Do the vaccines work?

- The COVID-19 vaccines available have been shown to be very effective at protecting people from severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death. Hundreds of millions of people have received the vaccines since they were authorized, and data shows the vaccines are working!

Are the vaccines safe?

- **Yes. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccines.**
  The vaccines do not contain the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccines teach your body's immune system how to fight the virus, so it knows how to do so if you are exposed to COVID-19.
- The vaccines have gone through large clinical studies involving tens of thousands of people of various ages, races and ethnicities. The evidence from those studies was closely reviewed by the FDA and independent organizations.
- Several federal agencies and organizations have continued to monitor the safety of the vaccines as they are used. The vaccines are being monitored more closely than any other vaccines in U.S. history.

How were the vaccines developed so quickly?

- COVID-19 vaccine development involved unprecedented resources. Billions of dollars were spent, and scientists from around the world have been working nonstop.
- Scientists built on decades of research from other vaccines, including research on vaccines for other coronaviruses.

Are there side effects from the vaccines?

- Yes, most people have some side effects. Common side effects include soreness in the arm where you got the shot, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever.
- If you have any questions or concerns, call **311** or talk to your health care provider.
- Side effects can be unpleasant, but they are usually not a health concern and go away within 24 to 48 hours. In contrast, COVID-19 is a significant health concern and can lead to long-term health complications, hospitalization and death.

NYC
Health
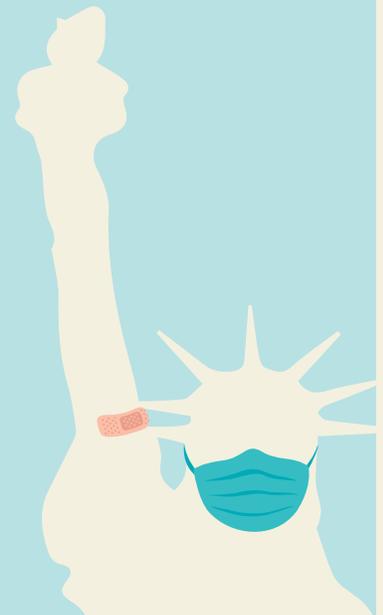
Who can get a vaccine and how much will it cost?

- People age 12 and older are eligible for vaccination.
- The vaccines are provided at no cost. If you have insurance, it may be billed but you will not be charged a copay or other fee.

Is my confidentiality protected?

- When you receive the vaccine, your privacy will be protected. There are strict laws in place to ensure confidentiality of your personal information.
- You do not need to share your immigration status or Social Security number to be vaccinated.

Where can I get a vaccine?

- Visit **nyc.gov/vaccinefinder** or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) to find a site. No appointment is needed at many sites.
- Check with your health care provider or local pharmacy to see if they are offering vaccinations.
- New Yorkers 65 and older and those with disabilities can request free transportation to vaccination sites by calling 877-829-4692.
- New Yorkers who cannot leave their home can get vaccinated in their home by signing up at **nyc.gov/homebound** or calling 877-829-4692.

  For accommodations (such as a wheelchair provided on-site or in-person ASL interpretation), call 877-829-4692 or visit **vax4nyc.nyc.gov** ahead of time. To give feedback or file an accessibility complaint, call 311, text 311692 or email **hubaccess@health.nyc.gov**.

Should I get a vaccine if I already had COVID-19?

- Yes, since it is possible to get COVID-19 again, you should get vaccinated. The vaccines are safe and may boost the protection your body has already built up.

When I get vaccinated, can I stop physical distancing and wearing a face covering?

- Once **fully vaccinated,** you can do most activities without wearing a face covering or physical distancing anymore! Outdoor activities are particularly safe. Our advice is to keep your face covering on indoors until even more people are vaccinated. Also, you must follow the face covering requirements of any place that you go, such as a business, school, public transportation or your workplace. Once fully vaccinated, you also do not need to quarantine following an exposure or get tested, unless you have COVID-19 symptoms.
- People who **are not fully vaccinated** must continue all precautions, including wearing a face covering and maintaining physical distance whenever in public.

It is understandable that some people may be unsure about getting vaccinated or have additional questions. To learn more, talk to your health care provider, call **311**, or visit **nyc.gov/covidvaccine**.

NYC
Health