What New Yorkers Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines are available now for some people and will likely be available for most New Yorkers by mid-2021.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Scientists built off decades of research for other vaccines when developing COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccines went through large clinical studies involving tens of thousands of people of different ages, races and ethnicities. These studies showed the vaccines were very effective at protecting people from COVID-19. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the vaccines for emergency use.

COVID-19 vaccines are provided at no cost to you. All New Yorkers 16 and older will have access to a vaccine at no cost to them. You do not need to have insurance or share your immigration status to be vaccinated.

Vaccine distribution is occurring in phases. Due to the limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines, people at higher risk for infection or severe disease are being prioritized. For currently eligible groups, visit nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution.

You must make an appointment to get vaccinated. If you are eligible to be vaccinated, ask your health care provider and employer if they are offering vaccinations. Visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder to find out where you can get vaccinated or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) to make an appointment at a NYC site.

You may experience some side effects. Common side effects include soreness in the arm where you got the shot, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever. The vaccines do not contain the virus that causes COVID-19, do not change your DNA and do not give you COVID-19.

Keep taking precautions. We know the vaccines protect you, but we still need to learn more about how they impact spread of the virus. For now, even after getting vaccinated, continue to stay home if you are sick, maintain 6 feet of distance from others, wear a face covering properly and wash your hands often.

To learn more, talk to your health care provider, call 311 or visit nyc.gov/covidvaccine.