



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner

2021 Health Advisory #1

All New Yorkers in the New York State Phase 1a Group Are Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination

- All New Yorkers listed in the New York State COVID-19 vaccination Phase 1a group are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine
- Visit the NYC Health Department website regularly for current information on
 - Groups eligible for COVID-19 vaccine at nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution
 - Vaccine site locations for eligible New Yorkers at nyc.gov/vaccinelocations

January 8, 2021

Dear Colleague:

This Health Advisory provides updated information on who is eligible for COVID-19 vaccination in New York City and where those who are eligible can get vaccinated. Currently, everyone who falls into New York State (NYS)'s COVID-19 vaccination Phase 1a is eligible (**Box 1**). Eligibility is being expanded frequently. For updated information, visit the NYC Health Department webpage on [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in NYC](#). Additional information can be found on the [NYS website](#).

Where to get vaccinated

Contact your employer to be vaccinated if you work at or are affiliated with:

- A hospital network
- An urgent care center
- A Federally Qualified Health Center
- A congregate setting associated with the New York State (NYS) Offices for People with Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, and Addiction Services and Supports
- A long-term care facility

For eligible people who are unaffiliated or unable to get vaccinated through their network or employer, the City has started opening vaccine sites in all five boroughs to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccine. People who are currently eligible to be vaccinated can make an appointment by visiting nyc.gov/vaccinelocations and searching for sites by borough. You must make an appointment in advance. Appointments will be added on an ongoing basis. People who are **not** yet eligible to be vaccinated should **not** make an appointment.

The [NYS COVID-19 Vaccine Form](#) must be completed before the vaccination appointment in order to get vaccinated. NYS requires the provider administering the vaccine to check that the person receiving the vaccine has completed the form. People being vaccinated must also bring proof of employment, such as an employee ID card, a letter from their employer or affiliated organization, or a recent pay stub, as evidence of eligibility.

Box 1: New York State Phase 1a Eligible Groups

- **Health Care Workers**

- High-risk hospital workers (emergency room workers, ICU staff and Pulmonary Department staff)
- Federally Qualified Health Center employees
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers
- Coroners, medical examiners and certain funeral workers
- Urgent Care providers
- Individuals administering COVID-19 vaccines, including local health department staff
- All Outpatient/Ambulatory front-line, high-risk health care workers of any age who provide direct in-person patient care
- All staff who are in direct contact with patients (e.g., reception staff)
- All front-line, high-risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients, including those conducting COVID-19 tests, handling COVID-19 specimens and COVID-19 vaccinations

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Doctors who work in private medical practices and their staff
- Doctors who work in hospital-affiliated medical practices and their staff
- Doctors who work in public health clinics and their staff
- Registered Nurses
- Specialty medical practices of all types
- Dentists and orthodontists and their staff
- Psychiatrists and psychologists and their staff
- Physical Therapists and their staff
- Optometrists and their staff
- Pharmacists and pharmacy Aides
- Home care workers
- Hospice workers

- **Residents and Staff in Certain Group Living Facilities**

- Nursing homes and other congregate care facilities
- NYS Office of Mental Health, Office People with Developmental Disabilities, and Office of Addiction Services and Supports facilities

The State will be expanding the list of groups eligible for vaccination over the coming weeks and months. We expect people 75 years of age and older and additional frontline essential workers to be eligible soon. Providers should start speaking with their patients now about the importance of vaccination and to answer their questions and address any concerns. Providers recommendation is one of the strongest predictors of vaccine receipt and as a vaccine recipients' most-trusted source of information on vaccines, providers play a critical role in helping them understand the importance of COVID-19 vaccination, as well as if and when it is likely to be recommended for them. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [communication strategies and tips](#) for effectively setting expectations and addressing patient questions.

The NYC Health Department will continue to share information as it becomes available. Please check the below links frequently for updates:

- Vaccination sites: nyc.gov/vaccinelocations
- Vaccine eligibility: nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution
- COVID-19 vaccine information for the public: nyc.gov/covidvaccine
- COVID-19 vaccine information for providers: nyc.gov/health/covidvaccineprovider

Thank you for your partnership throughout the City's COVID-19 vaccine campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celia Quinn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Celia Quinn, MD, MPH
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Bureau of Healthcare and Community Readiness
Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.