



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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Commissioner

2021 Health Advisory #2

Select New York State Phase 1b Groups Are Now Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination

- **New York State has expanded COVID-19 vaccination eligibility to the following select 1b groups, beginning January 11, 2021:**
 - **People aged 75 years or older**
 - **First responders and support staff of first responder agencies**
 - **Corrections staff**
 - **Pre-K to grade 12 teachers and staff**
 - **Group childcare providers and staff**
 - **Public transit workers**
 - **Public-facing grocery store workers**
 - **In-person college instructors**
 - **Residents and at-risk staff of group residential homeless shelters**
- **Hospitals and other health care providers must continue to prioritize health care workers and others in Phase 1a for vaccination.**
- **Providers should communicate with their patients about vaccination. Answer their questions, address concerns, and inform them of when and where to get vaccinated.**
- **Encourage patients to continue to wear a face covering and practice physical distancing.**
- **Visit the NYC Health Department’s website regularly for the most current information on:**
 - **Groups eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution**
 - **Vaccine site locations for eligible New Yorkers nyc.gov/vaccinefinder**

January 11, 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. In addition to everyone in New York State (NYS)’s COVID-19 vaccination Phase 1a group, people in the following select groups of Phase 1b are eligible to be vaccinated starting today: people aged 75 years or older, first responders and support staff of first responder agencies, corrections staff, pre-K to grade 12 teachers and staff, group childcare providers and staff, public transit workers, public-facing grocery store workers, in-person college instructors, and residents and at-risk staff of group residential homeless shelters. Health care workers and others in Phase 1a should continue to be prioritized for vaccination. See Appendices 1 (Phase 1a) and 2 (Phase 1b) for a complete list of eligible groups and additional details.

Eligibility is being expanded frequently. For updated information on vaccine eligibility, visit nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution. Additional information can be found on the [NYS website](#).

Where to get vaccinated

Phase 1a health care workers and congregate living facility residents and staff should contact their employer, congregate residence, or affiliated hospital/network to be vaccinated. This includes people working at or 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 congregate care facility

Phase 1b workers should also check with their employers, as some employers may be arranging for vaccination.

People who are currently eligible to be vaccinated can make an appointment by visiting nyc.gov/vaccinefinder and searching for sites by address or ZIP code. Appointments are required. New appointments and locations will be added on an ongoing basis. People who are **not** yet eligible to be vaccinated should **not** make an appointment.

If you or your healthcare system is currently not offering vaccinations to patients, please direct eligible patients to the nyc.gov/vaccinefinder website. People who are unable to make an appointment online can call **977-VAX-4NYC (977-829-4692)** to make an appointment at a NYC Health Department or Health + Hospitals vaccine site.

Providers who practice at facilities that offer onsite vaccination to patients should encourage patients to use those sites, particularly if the patient can be vaccinated at the time of an in-person medical visit scheduled for a different reason. Also, consider offering vaccination to hospitalized patients while they are admitted or at time of discharge if they were admitted for something other than COVID-19 and there is no contraindication to being vaccinated.

Preparing for the Vaccine Appointment

The [NYS COVID-19 Vaccine Form](#) must be completed by all individuals prior to being vaccinated. Please have your patients fill out this form online or when they arrive for their appointment. NYS requires the administering provider to check that the person receiving the vaccine has completed the form. People being vaccinated based on their job type must bring proof of employment, such as an employee ID card, letter from their employer or affiliated organization, or a recent pay stub, to their appointment. People being vaccinated based on their age must show proof of age.

Providers Play a Critical Role Getting Patients Vaccinated

We encourage you to begin communicating with patients now, including those who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, about the importance of COVID-19 vaccination and to answer questions and address any concerns. A provider's recommendation is one of the strongest predictors that a patient will accept vaccination. As the most trusted source of information on vaccines, providers play a critical role in helping patients understand the importance of COVID-19 vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention has [communication strategies and tips](#) for effectively setting expectations and addressing questions.

Please also encourage patients to continue to wear a face covering, practice physical distancing, and continue to practice other COVID-19 prevention measures now and even after being vaccinated.

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/vaccinefinder
- 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,



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

Appendix 1: NYS Phase 1a Groups Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination

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

Appendix 2: NYS Phase 1b Groups Currently Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination (as of January 11, 2021)

Age

- People ages 75 and older

Essential Workers

- First responders and staff of first responder agencies:
 - Fire service (professional and volunteer staff at state and local fire services, including firefighters and investigators)
 - Police and investigations (state police, including troopers; state park police; Department of Environmental Conservation police; forest rangers; SUNY police; sheriffs' offices; county police departments and police districts; city, town, and village police departments; transit of other public authority police departments; and state field investigations, including Department of Motor Vehicles, State Commission of Correction, Justice Center, Department of Financial Services, Inspector General, Department of Tax, Office of Children and Family Services, State Liquor Authority)
 - Public safety communications (emergency communication and Public Safety Answering Point Personnel, including dispatchers and technicians)
 - Other sworn and civilian personnel (court officers; other police and peace officers; and support of civilian staff for any of the above services, agencies, or facilities)
- Corrections staff
 - State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision personnel, including correction and parole officers
 - Local correctional facilities, including correction officers
 - Local probation departments, including probation officers
 - State and local juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities
- Pre-K through grade 12 teachers and staff
 - Pre-K through grade 12 school or school district faculty or staff (includes all teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, school administrators, paraprofessional staff, and support staff including bus drivers)
 - Contractors working in pre-K through grade 12 schools or school districts (including contracted bus drivers)
- Licensed, registered, approved, or legally exempt group childcare providers
 - Employees or support staff of licensed or registered childcare setting
- Public Transit
 - Airline and airport, passenger railroad, subway and mass transit (i.e., MTA, LIRR, Metro North, NYC Transit, upstate transit), and ferry employees
 - Port Authority employees
 - Public bus employees
- Public-facing grocery store workers
- In-person college instructors

Residents and Staff in Certain Group Living Facilities

- Individuals living in a homeless shelter, where sleeping, bathing or eating accommodations must be shared with individuals and families who are not part of your household
- Individuals working (paid or unpaid) in a homeless shelter where sleeping, bathing or eating accommodations must be shared by individuals and families who are not part of the same household, in a position where there is potential for interaction with shelter residents