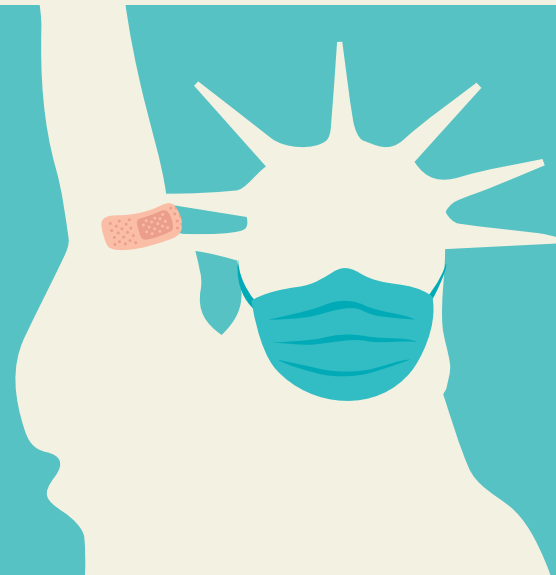


COVID-19 Vaccines: What Older New Yorkers Need to Know

COVID-19 vaccines are available! They are safe, effective, and accessible at hundreds of sites around the city. We urge all older New Yorkers to get vaccinated.



Why is it important for older adults to get vaccinated against COVID-19?

While anyone can get sick from COVID-19, the risk of severe illness increases with age. Severe illness from COVID-19 may lead to hospitalization, intensive care, use of a ventilator or death. Certain underlying medical conditions, such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, diabetes and heart disease, also increase the risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and do they work?

Yes. Scientists built off of decades of research for other vaccines when developing the COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccines went through large clinical studies involving tens of thousands of people of different ages, races and ethnicities. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccines.

In clinical studies, all three vaccines were found to be very safe and effective at protecting people from severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death.

**NYC VACCINE FOR ALL:
SAFE, FREE, EASY**

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Are there side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines?

Most people report mild to moderate side effects, including soreness in the arm, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever. Side effects usually go away within two to three days and are less common in older adults. Call your health care provider if you have side effects that concern you or do not go away after a few days, or if the redness or soreness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours.

Do I need the COVID-19 vaccine if I got the flu vaccine?

Yes. The flu vaccine does not protect you from COVID-19. Since older adults are at increased risk of complications from both the flu and COVID-19, they should get both vaccines.

Is it safe for me to leave home to get vaccinated?

Vaccination sites are taking extra precautions to protect patients and staff, such as limiting the number of people on-site at the same time. Everyone at the vaccination site must wear a face covering at all times.

How can I get to my vaccination appointment?

Free transportation to vaccination appointments in NYC is available for city residents 65 and older and those with disabilities who have no other way to get to a vaccination site. To arrange for transportation, call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692). If you take public transportation, find the most direct and least crowded way to travel. No matter how you travel, keep 6 feet from others, wear a face covering, use hand sanitizer often and avoid touching your face.

How much will it cost to get vaccinated?

Vaccination is provided at no cost. If you have insurance, it may be billed, but you will not be charged a copayment or other fee.

Where can I get vaccinated?

If you live in a nursing home or other group care facility, you may be able to get vaccinated there. Otherwise, you can find a vaccination site by:

- Visiting nyc.gov/vaccinefinder
- Calling 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692)
- Contacting your provider or pharmacy to see if they are offering vaccination

Some sites require appointments and some offer vaccines without appointments.

Do I need to provide proof of eligibility to be vaccinated?

Yes. You must fill out the New York State (NYS) COVID-19 Vaccine Form at vaccineform.health.ny.gov before being vaccinated. You will also need to bring proof of age, such as a driver's license or other state ID, valid U.S. or foreign passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, life insurance policy, or other document showing your date of birth.

How can homebound New Yorkers get vaccinated?

NYC residents who cannot leave their home can get vaccinated in their home by signing up at nyc.gov/homebound or calling 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

Can I stop physical distancing and wearing a face covering after I get vaccinated?

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.

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**.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, talk to your provider, call **311** or visit **nyc.gov/covidvaccine**.

For a list of free services and support for older New Yorkers during the COVID-19 public health emergency, visit **nyc.gov/aging/covid19**.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. **5.20.2021**



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nyc.gov/aging/covid19

