

## Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent COVID-19

To stop this pandemic, we need to use all of our prevention tools. These vaccines are the best protection we have against COVID-19. No matter how old you are, COVID-19 can lead to complications and death. Even if you had COVID-19, it is important to get vaccinated because it lowers your risk of getting COVID-19 again and may prevent you from passing it on to others.

Also, getting vaccinated may protect those around you, particularly people who cannot get the vaccine, such as children. Vaccination, along with other prevention measures, can help us end the COVID-19 public health emergency. Other steps, like continuing to wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth and staying at least 6 feet away from other people you don't live with, also help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Studies show that COVID-19 **vaccines are very effective** at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. These vaccines cannot give you the disease itself.



## Can I Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is currently being distributed to various groups of people who are at increased risk of COVID-19 exposure or severe illness. The vaccine is expected to be widely available to all New Yorkers by mid-2021.

**You may qualify now to be vaccinated based on your age, type of employment or health condition.**

- Age 30 and older (All adults eligible as of April 6, 2021)
- Employment categories include: Food Industry, Building Service, School employees, Healthcare workers, first responders, hotels, public transit/TLC drivers, and Public Facing Government/Non-profit workers

**New Yorkers age 18\* and older with the following illnesses\*\* qualify for the vaccine:**

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| ✓ Cancer (current or in remission, including 9/11-related cancers)   | severe), pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, and 9/11 related pulmonary diseases        |
| ✓ Chronic kidney disease (renal disease, renal failure, on dialysis)   | ✓ Intellectual and developmental disabilities including Down Syndrome                    |
| ✓ Pulmonary (lung) disease, including but not limited to, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma (moderate-to- | ✓ Heart conditions, including but not limited to heart failure, coronary artery disease, |

cardiomyopathies, or hypertension (high blood pressure)

- ✓ Weakened immune system, including but not limited to solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, use of other immune weakening medicines, or other causes
- ✓ Severe Obesity (BMI 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

- ✓ Pregnancy
- ✓ Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- ✓ Type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus
- ✓ Cerebrovascular disease (stroke)
- ✓ Neurologic conditions including but not limited to Alzheimer's Disease or dementia
- ✓ Liver disease (such as cirrhosis)

\*\*The Pfizer BioNTech vaccine is authorized for persons 16 years and older.

\*\*The list is subject to change as additional scientific information is available.

For more information, see: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a---phase-1b>

**For Clients and Staff that are eligible and interested in being vaccinated at the at the DSS/DHS Vaccine Site in Manhattan, please sign-up for a COVID-19 Vaccine appointment here:**

<https://DSSCovidVaccine.as.me/DSSVaccineSiteManhattan>

- When you reach the sign-up page, select an appointment time
- Please answer all questions at the bottom of the page in order to finish your booking.
- Complete a consent form before arrival at your appointment. If you do not have printer access, we will have the Consent Form to fill out when you arrive.
- After successfully completing your booking, you will receive an appointment confirmation email with the site address. If possible, please print or have a copy of the confirmation email on your mobile device for check-in at your appointment. The email confirmation will be sent to the email address you entered with your registration.

**Please note the DSS site is meant to support the overall citywide effort and clients and staff eligible for and interested in getting vaccinated should also utilize the city portal (<https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>) to find the most convenient vaccination appointment for you!**

