

**COVID Vaccine Information and Resources**

We are pleased to share that COVID-19 vaccines have been approved! New York State is currently receiving doses of the vaccine and a comprehensive distribution plan is in place.

New York State [launched a website](https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/) containing the most accurate and up-to-date information on the vaccine. Information on the website includes the vaccine’s availability, distribution plan, vaccination process, immune response, and safety. You can access the website by visiting <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

**In addition, please see below for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the COVID-19 vaccine:**

- **When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

New York State is distributing the COVID-19 vaccine in phases, based on need and risk.

Please see the chart below for additional details. You may also visit <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine> for further information on the phased plan.

Population Risk & Essential Worker Phases	
<b>Phase 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare workers (clinical and non-clinical) in patient care settings ICU, ED, EMS are a top priority</li> <li>• Long-term care facility workers who regularly interact with patients</li> <li>• Most at-risk, long-term care facility patients</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First responders (firemen, police officers, National Guard)</li> <li>• Teachers/school staff (in-person instruction), childcare providers</li> <li>• Public health workers</li> <li>• Other essential frontline workers who regularly interact with the public (pharmacists, grocery store workers, transit employees, etc.) or maintain critical services</li> <li>• Other long-term care facility patients and those living in other group settings</li> <li>• Individuals in the general population determined to be particularly high risk due to comorbidities and health conditions</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals over 65</li> <li>• Individuals under 65 with high-risk comorbidities and health conditions</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other essential workers</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy adults and children</li> </ul>

Both the federal government and New York State have developed plans to ensure that everyone is able to get a COVID-19 vaccine when large quantities are available.

- **Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes widely available, you can locate a provider in your area by using the Vaccine Finder tool. Simply visit <https://www.vaccinefinder.org/find-vaccine>.

- **Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe and effective?**

After a COVID-19 vaccine is authorized or approved for use by the FDA, many vaccine safety monitoring systems watch for possible side effects. This ongoing monitoring can pick up on side effects that may not have been seen in clinical trials. If an unexpected side effect is seen, experts quickly study it further to see if it is a true safety concern. Experts then decide whether changes are needed in U.S. vaccine recommendations.

In New York State, an added level of review was established to ensure COVID-19 vaccine safety. Following FDA approval, experts on [New York State's independent COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Advisory Task Force](#) thoroughly review vaccine research before recommending any vaccine to New Yorkers.

- **Do I have to pay for the COVID-19 vaccine?**

No. There is no cost to you to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Who should get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

New York is not mandating the COVID-19 vaccine. However, it is recommended that you consult with your health care provider to find out if the vaccine is right for you.

**To view additional FAQs about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit**

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions>.

You may also call the **NYSDOH, Bureau of Immunization** at (518) 473-4437 or **NYSDOH COVID-19 Hotline** at (888) 364-3065 for more information.