

SUFFOLK COUNTY VACCINATION FAQ SHEET

IF ASKED WHERE/HOW TO GET VACCINE:

Given high demand and limited supply of the vaccine, appointments may be limited at this time. You can visit www.northwell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine to schedule an appointment to get your vaccine and check your eligibility. If there are none available at this time, we encourage you to check back as more slots come online.

People age 75 and over will primarily be vaccinated at pharmacies and other sites that are part of the “retail network. Additionally, New York State has committed to launching a call center, where eligible individuals will be able to sign up for a vaccination appointment. Beginning at 4:00pm on Monday, January 11, the COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline will open for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers. Phone number: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (tel:1-833-697-4829).

As distribution continues to ramp up, Suffolk County stands ready and willing to provide these vaccines, as soon as they become available.

Who is able to get the vaccine right now?

Anyone designated within Phase 1a. Starting TODAY, Monday, January 11th, New York State will begin scheduling COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals eligible under Phase 1b.

Phase 1a includes:

- High-risk hospital workers (emergency room workers, ICU staff and Pulmonary Department staff)
- Residents and staff at nursing home and other congregate care facilities
- Federally Qualified Health Center employees
- EMS workers
- Coroners, medical examiners and certain funeral workers
- Staff and residents at OPWDD, OMH and OASAS facilities
- 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 (i.e., intake 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
- Staff of nursing homes/skilled nursing facilities who did not receive COVID vaccination through the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program

Phase 1b includes:

- Teachers and education workers
- First responders
- Public safety workers
- Public transit workers
- People 75 and older
- Public-Facing Grocery Store Workers
- 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 the same 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

Why can't I get vaccinated yet?

New York State determines when you qualify to receive the vaccine. The State has established guidance, protocols, and priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination based on need and risk.

As distribution continues to ramp up, Suffolk County stands ready and willing to provide these vaccines, as soon as they become available.

How do I learn if I am eligible?

New York State has launched a new 'Am I Eligible ' app to help New Yorkers determine their eligibility, connect them with administration centers, and schedule appointments. To access the app, as well as find the latest information concerning the vaccine and its administration, visit: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

Where should I go to get vaccinated?

On Monday, January 11, 2020 New York State plans to announce a new call center to schedule vaccination appointments for residents who are eligible under Phases 1a/1b.

The hotline goes live at 4:00 PM. Phone number: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (tel:1-833-697-4829).

Will there be a cost associated with getting a vaccine?

The vaccine is free of charge.

Do I need to receive one or two doses of the vaccine?

The initial COVID-19 vaccines -- Pfizer and Moderna -- require two doses.

- If you receive the Pfizer vaccine, you need to obtain a follow-up dose 21 days apart.
- If you receive the Moderna vaccine, you need to obtain a follow-up dose 28 days apart.

Why do I need to receive a second dose of the vaccine?

The level of protection increases dramatically after receiving the second shot of the vaccine, and second shots provide longer-lasting immunity than just a single dose.

Does Suffolk County have a vaccination site?

Suffolk County has partnered with Northwell Health to open up a vaccine distribution center, which will be administered in coordination with New York State. This site is only available for eligible residents who must first schedule with a vaccination appointment.

Who do I reach out to if I have any additional questions?

You can find updates about the availability of the vaccine for various groups on the New York State Department of Health's website. You can also call the department at 1-866-881-2809 or email questions to dohweb@health.ny.gov.