



New York City's Winter 2022-2023 Plan To Address COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Illnesses

There are high levels of COVID-19, influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and other respiratory viruses in New York City (NYC). There are many tools to help manage these viruses and prevent severe illness and death. Here is what the City is doing to keep New Yorkers healthy this winter:

Tracking COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Viruses

The City is tracking case, hospitalization and death data for COVID-19, flu and RSV, including emergency room use and available space in hospitals and intensive care units. We are looking at data trends and changes, such as a large increase in cases in a short period of time in NYC. We are also watching NYC and global data on COVID-19 variants so we can quickly respond to any variant that may cause more severe disease or spread faster.

The NYC Commissioner of Health has issued a Health Advisory to encourage all New Yorkers to wear masks and take other precautions. The City is ready to respond with additional action to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, and prevent people from getting very sick and dying.

Making Testing, Treatment, Masks and Vaccines Available

The following resources are available throughout NYC:

- **Free COVID-19 at-home test kits**
 - Free COVID-19 at-home tests are available at over 250 locations, including libraries, parks, facilities and cultural sites. To find the site nearest you, call 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319) or visit bit.ly/HH_testsites.
 - COVID-19 at-home tests are provided to public school students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms, and to families before winter break.
- **Treatment**
 - Test to Treat mobile testing vans offer rapid COVID-19 testing and free COVID-19 treatment at all units. Flu and RSV testing and Tamiflu prescriptions are available at some locations for patients who have symptoms. To find tests and treatments you may need, visit bit.ly/HH_testsites.
 - Call your health care provider or 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319), or visit nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-whensick.page to ask about treatment for respiratory illnesses.
- **Vaccines**
 - To find a COVID-19 and flu vaccination site, visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).
 - To find a COVID-19 and flu community vaccination event, visit nyc.gov/health/flu.

- NYC residents who are homebound or older than age 65 can request at-home COVID-19 vaccination by visiting forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/home or calling 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).
- **Masks:**
 - Businesses and other organizations that serve New Yorkers can order masks and other supplies through the NYC Medical Personal Protective Equipment Interest Survey (available at nycdohmh.surveymonkey.com/r/N5VHVBK).

Community partners continue to perform in-person outreach and virtual community events. Our partners distribute masks, COVID-19 at-home test kits and educational materials, and make referrals for COVID-19 vaccination and testing. To enroll in the City's free at-home test kit programs, qualifying community organizations, houses of worship and local groups can visit bit.ly/rapidkit_waitinglist.

Focusing On Protecting New Yorkers at Highest Risk

People age 65 and older are at the highest risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. Some people with underlying medical conditions are also at higher risk. Making sure these New Yorkers get the updated COVID-19 booster shot and flu vaccine, and have access to treatment and care is critical to keeping them healthy.

The City is taking these steps to help keep New Yorkers at higher risk safe:

- Calling people age 65 and older who test positive for COVID-19 to help them get treatment.
- Sending text messages to remind people to get their updated COVID-19 booster shot.
- Asking health care providers to reach out to their patients who are at higher risk for severe illness.
- Working with long-term care facilities (such as nursing homes and adult care facilities) and other residential congregate settings to bring vaccine and testing resources, infection prevention and control guidance, and treatment outreach and education on-site in response to cases and outbreaks in these settings.

For more information, call **311**, or visit nyc.gov/health/coronavirus, nyc.gov/flu and nyc.gov/rsv.