



**Department
of Health**

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Commissioner



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
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Acting Health Commissioner

DATE: September 5, 2025

TO: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Local Health Departments, Pharmacists

FROM: New York State Department of Health and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

HEALTH ADVISORY:

2025-2026 COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION GUIDANCE FOR ADULTS

- The New York State Department of Health and New York City Health Department are issuing COVID-19 immunization recommendations in preparation for the 2025–2026 respiratory virus season for all products (Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax).
- We recommend that everyone 19 years of age and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the most effective defense to prevent severe COVID-19 disease outcomes.

COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULTS (>18 YEARS)

Vaccination against COVID-19 is recommended for all adults (>18 years)

- All adults 65 years and older should be vaccinated
- Adults 19-64 years with risk factors for severe COVID-19 disease (e.g., chronic conditions, immunocompromised status) should be vaccinated (see table below)
- Adults 19-64 years at higher risk of exposure (e.g., healthcare workers, congregate care settings) should be vaccinated
- Adults 19-64 who are household contacts of persons at high risk of severe disease should be vaccinated
- For adults without underlying conditions, vaccination remains recommended as it reduces the risk of symptomatic infection, severe illness, and death.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Non-patient-specific standing orders may be written by physicians and nurse practitioners for COVID 19 vaccination for people who meet the Food and Drug Administration indications for 2025-2026 products.
- While federal actions may restrict eligibility for adults with no underlying conditions, providers may administer the vaccine to individuals consistent with “off-label” use, by a patient-specific order.
- Individuals seeking COVID-19 vaccination should confirm coverage with their health plan.
- The Department will provide updated information to providers as we continue to adapt to the evolving landscape of vaccine access in the United States.

Table 1: CDC 2025 List of Underlying Medical Conditions That Increase a Person's Risk of Severe COVID-19 ‡
Adults ages 18-64 years at higher risk of exposure (e.g., healthcare workers, congregate care settings)
Adults ages 18-64 who are who are household contacts of persons at high risk of severe disease
Asthma
Cancer ▪ Hematologic malignancies
Cerebrovascular disease
Chronic kidney disease* ▪ People receiving dialysis^
Chronic lung diseases limited to the following: ▪ Bronchiectasis ▪ COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) ▪ Interstitial lung disease ▪ Pulmonary embolism ▪ Pulmonary hypertension
Chronic liver disease limited to the following: ▪ Cirrhosis ▪ Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease ▪ Alcoholic liver disease ▪ Autoimmune hepatitis
Cystic Fibrosis
Diabetes mellitus, type 1
Diabetes mellitus, type 2*
Disabilities ‡, including Down's syndrome
Epilepsy
Hemophilia
Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies)
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)
Mental health conditions limited to the following: ▪ Mood disorders, including depression ▪ Schizophrenia spectrum disorders
Neurologic conditions limited to dementia ‡ and Parkinson's disease
Obesity (BMI ≥ 30 or ≥ 95 th percentile in children)
Overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m ² but < 30 kg/m ²)
Physical inactivity
Pregnancy (pregnant, postpartum, lactating, or planning pregnancy) (See Note)
Primary immunodeficiencies
Sickle cell disease
Smoking, current and former
Substance use disorders
Solid-organ or blood stem-cell transplantation
Tuberculosis
Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications

* Indicates presence of evidence for pregnant and nonpregnant women.

^ Risk may be further increased for people receiving dialysis

‡ Underlying conditions for which there is evidence in pediatric patients.

¥ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19. CDC. Published June 11, 2025. Accessed September 4, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/clinical-care/underlying-conditions.html>. This resource provides detailed evidence grading for each clinical condition listed in the table.

Note:

The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** recommends that pregnant, postpartum, lactating individuals, and those planning pregnancy receive updated COVID-19 vaccination.