



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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Commissioner

2021 Veterinary Advisory #1

Select New York State Phase 1b Groups Are Now Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination

- **New York State continues to expand COVID-19 vaccination eligibility; at this time veterinarians and their staff are not yet eligible.**
- **People in 1a and select 1b groups are eligible as of January 11, 2021 (see Appendices 1 (Phase 1a) and 2 (Select Phase 1b) below for details):**
 - **Health care workers**
 - **People aged 75 years or older**
 - **First responders and support staff of first responder agencies**
 - **Corrections staff**
 - **Pre-K to grade 12 teachers and staff, group childcare providers and staff, in-person college instructors**
 - **Public transit workers**
 - **Public-facing grocery store workers**
 - **Residents and at-risk staff of group residential homeless shelters**
- **Plan for when you are eligible to get vaccinated.**
- **Encourage staff and clients to continue to wear a face covering and practice physical distancing.**
- **Visit the NYC Health Department’s website regularly for the most current information on:**
 - **Groups eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution**
 - **Vaccine site locations for eligible New Yorkers nyc.gov/vaccinefinder**

January 12, 2021

Dear Colleague:

This Health Advisory provides updated information on who is eligible for COVID-19 vaccination in New York City and where those who are eligible can get vaccinated. At this time, veterinarians, their staff and animal care workers in New York are not eligible, however, some may be eligible if they are part of another group (e.g., 75 years of age or older).

Currently, everyone in New York State (NYS)’s COVID-19 vaccination Phase 1a group and in the select groups of Phase 1b are eligible to be vaccinated, see Appendices 1 (Phase 1a) and 2 (Phase 1b) for a complete and detailed list of these eligible groups.

NYS determines which groups of people are eligible based on the recommendations issued by the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#). NYS has frequently been expanding the list of eligible groups, and we will notify you when veterinary and animal care workers are added. For updated information on vaccine eligibility, please visit nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution. Additional information can be found on the [NYS website](#).

Plan For When You Are Eligible to Get Vaccinated

Where to get vaccinated

Most health care workers and congregate living facility residents and staff are being directed to get vaccinated by their employer, congregate residence, or affiliated hospital/network. This includes people working at or affiliated with a hospital network, an urgent care center, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a congregate setting associated with the NYS Offices for People with Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, and Addiction Services and Supports, and a congregate care facility.

People who are currently eligible but unable to get vaccinated through their employer or other network, can arrange to be vaccinated by making an appointment by visiting nyc.gov/vaccinefinder and searching for sites by address or ZIP code. Appointments are required. New appointments and locations will be added on an ongoing basis. People who are **not** yet eligible to be vaccinated should **not** make an appointment.

People who are unable to make an appointment online can call 877-VAX-4NYC (977-829-4692) to make an appointment at a NYC site.

Preparing for the Vaccine Appointment

When you are eligible to get vaccinated, the [NYS COVID-19 Vaccine Form](#) must be completed by all individuals prior to being vaccinated. The form should be filled out online or before arriving at the appointment. NYS requires the administering provider to check that the person receiving the vaccine has completed the form. People being vaccinated on the basis of their job type must bring proof of employment, such as an employee ID card, letter from their employer or affiliated organization, or a recent pay stub, to their appointment. People being vaccinated based on their age must show proof of age.

Develop a plan to vaccinate staff and educate them on the importance of getting vaccinated. If possible, have staff get vaccinated 1-2 days before scheduled time off and consider staggered vaccination, especially of the second dose, after which systemic symptoms such as fever are more common, to ensure coverage at work.

Veterinarians Can Play A Role In Getting People Vaccinated

Veterinarians are a trusted source of information on vaccines, and clients may turn to you with questions and concerns. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [communication strategies and tips](#) developed for health care providers, which may help you address questions from clients. Please also encourage clients to continue to wear a face covering, practice physical distancing, and continue to practice other COVID-19 prevention measures now and even after being vaccinated.

The NYC Health Department will continue to share information as it becomes available. Please check the below links frequently for updates:

- Vaccination sites: nyc.gov/vaccinefinder
- Vaccine eligibility: nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution
- COVID-19 vaccine information for the public: nyc.gov/covidvaccine
- COVID-19 vaccine information for providers: nyc.gov/health/covidvaccineprovider

Sincerely, The Zoonotic, Influenza and Vector-borne Disease Unit

Appendix 1: NYS Phase 1a Groups Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination

Health Care Workers

- High-risk hospital workers (emergency room workers, ICU staff and Pulmonary Department staff)
- Federally Qualified Health Center employees
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers
- Coroners, medical examiners and certain funeral workers
- 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 (e.g., reception 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

Residents and Staff in Certain Group Living Facilities

- Nursing homes and other congregate care facilities
- NYS Office of Mental Health, Office People with Developmental Disabilities, and Office of Addiction Services and Supports facilities

Appendix 2: NYS Phase 1b Groups Currently Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination (as of January 11, 2021)

Age

- People ages 75 and older

Essential Workers

- First responders and staff of first responder agencies:
 - Fire service (professional and volunteer staff at state and local fire services, including firefighters and investigators)
 - Police and investigations (state police, including troopers; state park police; Department of Environmental Conservation police; forest rangers; SUNY police; sheriffs' offices; county police departments and police districts; city, town, and village police departments; transit of other public authority police departments; and state field investigations, including Department of Motor Vehicles, State Commission of Correction, Justice Center, Department of Financial Services, Inspector General, Department of Tax, Office of Children and Family Services, State Liquor Authority)
 - Public safety communications (emergency communication and Public Safety Answering Point Personnel, including dispatchers and technicians)
 - Other sworn and civilian personnel (court officers; other police and peace officers; and support of civilian staff for any of the above services, agencies, or facilities)
- Corrections staff
 - State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision personnel, including correction and parole officers
 - Local correctional facilities, including correction officers
 - Local probation departments, including probation officers
 - State and local juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities
- Pre-K through grade 12 teachers and staff
 - Pre-K through grade 12 school or school district faculty or staff (includes all teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, school administrators, paraprofessional staff, and support staff including bus drivers)
 - Contractors working in pre-K through grade 12 schools or school districts (including contracted bus drivers)
- Licensed, registered, approved, or legally exempt group childcare providers
 - Employees or support staff of licensed or registered childcare setting
- Public Transit
 - Airline and airport, passenger railroad, subway and mass transit (i.e., MTA, LIRR, Metro North, NYC Transit, upstate transit), and ferry employees
 - Port Authority employees
 - Public bus employees
- Public-facing grocery store workers
- In-person college instructors

Residents and Staff in Certain Group Living Facilities

- 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 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