# What New Yorkers Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

**COVID-19 vaccines are available now for all people age 12 and older. People ages 12 to 17 can get the Pfizer vaccine only.**

## COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

Scientists built off decades of research for other vaccines when developing COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccines went through large clinical studies involving tens of thousands of people of different ages, races and ethnicities. These studies showed the vaccines are safe and very effective at protecting people from severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death.

## COVID-19 vaccines are free.

All New Yorkers age 12 and older can get vaccinated for free. You **do not** need to have insurance or share your immigration status to get vaccinated.

## Find a site to get vaccinated.

Visit **nyc.gov/vaccinefinder** or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) to find a vaccination site. No appointment is needed at many sites. You can also ask your health care provider or employer if they are offering vaccinations.

## You may experience some side effects.

Common side effects include soreness in the arm where you got the shot, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever. The vaccines **do not** contain the virus that causes COVID-19, **do not** change your DNA and **do not** give you COVID-19.

## You can start easing precautions after being fully vaccinated.

Once **fully vaccinated**, you can do most activities without wearing a face covering or physical distancing anymore! Outdoor activities are particularly safe. Our advice is to keep your face covering on indoors until even more people are vaccinated. Also, you must follow the face covering requirements of any place that you go, such as a business, school, public transportation or your workplace. Once fully vaccinated, you also do not need to quarantine following an exposure or get tested, unless you have COVID-19 symptoms.

People who **are not fully vaccinated** must continue all precautions, including wearing a face covering and maintaining physical distance whenever in public.

For accommodations (such as a wheelchair provided on-site or in-person ASL interpretation), call 877-829-4692 or visit **vax4nyc.nyc.gov** ahead of time. To give feedback or file an accessibility complaint, call 311, text 311692 or email **hubaccess@health.nyc.gov**.

For more information, visit **nyc.gov/covidvaccine**.

**NYC VACCINE FOR ALL: SAFE, FREE, EASY**

**NYC** Health

**The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.** 5.20.21