

SUFFOLK COUNTY VACCINATION FAQ SHEET

**Updated as of 1/12*

How do I make an appointment to get vaccinated?

Website

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

Phone Number

New York State has launched a call center, where eligible individuals will be able to sign up for a vaccination appointment.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline will open for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers. **Phone number is 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).**

How do I find out if I am eligible?

- **Northwell:** To confirm your eligibility, learn more about vaccine safety and efficacy or to schedule your COVID-19 vaccination if you are eligible, visit Northwell's Vaccine Digital Hub at www.northwell.edu/covidvaccine
- **New York State:**
 - NY State has launched a new 'Am I Eligible' app to help New Yorkers determine their eligibility, connect them with administration center, and schedule appointments. To access the app, visit their website at www.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov.

Who is able to get the vaccine right now?

Anyone designated within Phase 1a. New York State has expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals under Phase 1b.

Phase 1a & Phase 1b

We are currently in Phase 1a and initial groups from Phase 1b.

Eligible New Yorkers in Phase 1a and 1b are:

- High-risk hospital workers (emergency room workers, ICU staff and Pulmonary Department staff)
- Residents and staff at nursing homes 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

Beginning January 11, 2021:

- Individuals Age 65 and Over
- First Responders and Support Staff for First Responder Agencies
 - Fire Service
 - State Fire Service, including firefighters and investigators (professional and volunteer)
 - Local Fire Services, including firefighters and investigators (professional and volunteer)
 - Police and Investigators
 - State Police, including Troopers
 - State Park Police, DEC Police, Forest Rangers
 - SUNY Police
 - Sheriffs' Offices
 - County Police Departments and Police Districts
 - City, Town, and Village Police Departments

- Transit or other Public Authority Police Departments
 - State Field Investigators, including Department of Motor Vehicles, State Commission of Correction, Justice Center, Department of Financial Services, Inspector General, Department of Tax and Finance, Office of Children and Family Services and 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 or Peace Officers
 - Support of Civilian Staff for Any of the above services, agencies, or facilities
- Corrections
 - 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 Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Facilities
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- P-12 Schools
 - P-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 a P-12 school or school district (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 employees
 - Passenger railroad employees
 - Subway and mass transit employees (i.e., MTA, LIRR, Metro North, NYC Transit, Upstate transit)
 - Ferry employees
 - Port Authority employees
 - Public bus employees
- Individuals living in a homeless shelter where sleeping, bathing or eating accommodations must be shared with individuals and families who are not part of the same household
- Individual 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
- Public-facing grocery store workers

- In-person college instructors

Do I need to do anything before I receive my vaccination?

Prior to receiving the vaccination, you must complete the [New York State COVID-19 Vaccine Form](#). This form can be completed [online](#) and you will receive a submission ID, or you can fill out the form at your vaccination site. Individuals being vaccinated must bring proof of eligibility to the vaccination site. This may include an employee ID card, a letter from an employer or affiliated organization, or a pay stub, depending on the specific priority status.

Why is it taking so long to make the COVID-19 vaccine available?

Because of limited vaccine supply, it will take some time before we can vaccinate every interested New Yorker. We are working around the clock to help ensure all those who are eligible have the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

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

Can I get my vaccine at my local hospital or doctor's office?

Vaccines for eligible members of the community are only being distributed at special vaccine centers located outside of hospitals and doctor's offices. Due to limited supply, the state is also making the vaccine available to community members in phases.

To confirm your eligibility, learn more about vaccine safety, confirm vaccination locations or to schedule your COVID-19 vaccination if you are eligible, visit Northwell's Vaccine Digital Hub www.northwell.edu/covidvaccine.

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 call Suffolk County 311 to speak to a call center operator during normal business hours or visit www.northwell.edu/covidvaccine.