

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective

REMEMBER: COVID-19 is very serious and can cause major medical complications and death.



The vaccine protects you.

It boosts your immune system's natural defenses against the virus. If you are exposed to COVID-19 after you are fully vaccinated, your immune system knows how to fight it.



The vaccine protects others.

As more people get vaccinated, the virus has less opportunity to spread. This means that rates of infection will go down and the pandemic will end! By getting vaccinated, you will protect your community.



All vaccines approved in the United States are safe and highly effective at preventing COVID-19.

If you are one of the very few people who get COVID after being vaccinated, your chance of serious illness or death is virtually zero. More than 100,000 people volunteered to be in the studies that showed the vaccines are safe.



What to expect:

- On the day of the vaccine, you will fill out a DOH form online attesting to your eligibility.
- You should not take pain medication prior, though you can take it after if you are in pain.
- You will wear your mask while getting vaccinated.
- You will receive an injection in your upper arm. You can choose which arm.
- After getting vaccinated, you will be observed for at least 15 minutes for any side effects.
- If you get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, you will come back in 3-4 weeks for a second dose. If you get the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, you will get just one shot.
- You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your final dose.

Side Effects

Studies found no serious side effects to the vaccination. Many people do not have any side effects. Some may have mild reactions like:

- Arm soreness or swelling
- Fever or chills
- Tiredness
- Headache

These reactions do **NOT** mean you are sick with COVID-19. They are signs that your immune system is preparing your body to fight coronavirus. These side effects typically go away within 24-72 hours.

Can I get vaccinated if...

I am taking medications, including psychotropic and substance use medications ?	✓ Yes
I have co-occurring conditions or high-risk conditions?*	✓ Yes
I am an older adult?*	✓ Yes
I have non-vaccine related allergies (e.g. oral medications or environmental)?	✓ Yes
I have previously had COVID-19, got COVID-19 between my two doses, or have COVID-19 right now?	✓ Yes However, if you are currently COVID-19 positive, wait until you are out of the isolation period before visiting a clinic.
I am a minor?	The Pfizer vaccine is approved for people age 16 and older.
I have previously had an allergic reaction to a vaccine or injectable medication I've gotten in the past?	Talk to your doctor before getting vaccinated.
I am pregnant* or lactating?	Talk to your doctor before getting vaccinated.
I am using drugs (non-prescription)?	✓ Yes

*You are at higher risk of complications from COVID-19, so you will be prioritized for vaccination.

Are you eligible for the vaccine?

Visit <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

If you are receiving services from OASAS, OMH or OPWDD and need help with the process, visit <https://redcap.link/olov-eligible>

Or Call: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)