



**Department  
of Health**

**JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH**  
Commissioner



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**  
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH  
*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.

<b>Table 1: CDC 2025 List of Underlying Medical Conditions That Increase a Person's Risk of Severe COVID 19 ‡</b>
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hematologic malignancies</li> </ul>
Cerebrovascular disease
Chronic kidney disease* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People receiving dialysis^</li> </ul>
Chronic lung diseases limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bronchiectasis</li> <li>▪ COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)</li> <li>▪ Interstitial lung disease</li> <li>▪ Pulmonary embolism</li> <li>▪ Pulmonary hypertension</li> </ul>
Chronic liver disease limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cirrhosis</li> <li>▪ Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease</li> <li>▪ Alcoholic liver disease</li> <li>▪ Autoimmune hepatitis</li> </ul>
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mood disorders, including depression</li> <li>▪ Schizophrenia spectrum disorders</li> </ul>
Neurologic conditions limited to dementia ‡ and Parkinson's disease
Obesity (BMI ≥ 30 or ≥ 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile in children)
Overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> but < 30 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )
Physical activity
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.