



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Dave A. Chokshi, MD MSc
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, July 2, 2021

STAY SAFE THIS FOURTH: HEALTH DEPARTMENT REMIND NEW YORKERS TO LEAVE FIREWORKS TO THE EXPERTS

*There were more firework injuries in New York City in 2020 than in the
previous two years combined*

July 2, 2021 – As the Fourth of July weekend approaches, the Health Department reminds all New Yorkers about the serious risk and dangers of fireworks. Fireworks can cause severe burns and eye injuries and should be handled by professionals.

“The Fourth of July holiday should be a time for fun and celebrations, not a trip to the hospital,” said **Health Commissioner Dr. Dave A. Chokshi**. “Injuries from fireworks are preventable and I encourage all New York City parents to speak with their children about the dangers of playing with fireworks. Leave the fireworks to the professionals!”

In 2020, there were 58 firework-related emergency department visits identified, compared with an average of 22 in the previous three years. In 2020, nearly 70% of these visits were among men, just over 20% occurred among teens and young adults between the ages of 15-24 years old, and 17% resulted in hospitalization. Nearly two-thirds of firework-related emergency department visits were among Brooklyn and Bronx residents.

Get Vaccinated!

If you are not yet fully vaccinated, in order to have a safe Fourth of July you must continue to follow public health precautions – wear a mask, avoid crowds, stay home if you’re not feeling well, get tested, and get vaccinated.

It has never been easier to get vaccinated against COVID-19 in New York City. People 12 years and older can now go to vaccination sites citywide without an appointment. To better meet New Yorkers where they live, work, go to school and play, New York City has deployed temporary, roaming vaccination sites across the city. Appointments are not required, but you can book an appointment at many of these sites in advance [online](#) or by calling **877-VAX-4NYC**.

A fully vaccinated person is much less likely to get sick or spread the virus that causes COVID-19. Any activity is safer when you are vaccinated, and in most settings, you will not need to wear a face covering or stay 6 feet away from others. For more in-depth information about the vaccine, including its ingredients and how it was developed and proven safe, visit our [Vaccine Facts](#) page.

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