



New York City Plan to Vaccinate Fully Homebound New Yorkers

The NYC Vaccine Command Center (VCC) is led by Melanie Hartzog, New York City's Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, and brings together experts from across city government. More than a dozen City agencies conduct operations through the VCC, including the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Health + Hospitals, NYC Emergency Management, NYC Department for the Aging, the Mayor's Office, and the City's Task Force on Racial Equity and Inclusion.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, New York City has worked to ensure that homebound New Yorkers have access to the resources they need. From emergency food delivery to daily wellness calls for our seniors, the City has continued to enhance efforts to reach this vulnerable population. With the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccines, the City is redoubling its efforts to protect homebound New Yorkers from COVID-19 by making the vaccine available to them in their homes.

In February 2021, Mayor de Blasio announced a three-pronged plan to reach homebound seniors and the frontline workers who care for them:

- **Reaching Homecare Aides, Home Health Aides, and Personal Care Aides**
It is critical that the frontline workers who care for homebound New Yorkers are protected from COVID-19. The City has ramped up vaccination for homecare aides, home health aides, and personal care aides. These essential workers receive priority appointments at City vaccine sites, as well as access to the City workforce hubs and other dedicated sites.
- **Launching Temporary Onsite Clinics at Senior Buildings**
Drawing on the expertise of the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), NYC Housing Preservation & Development (HPD), and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the City continues to set up temporary vaccine clinics in buildings located in naturally-occurring retirement communities (NORCs), as well as HPD buildings and NYCHA developments with high concentration of seniors. For older adults who are able to leave their units, but cannot travel for the vaccine, even with free transportation assistance provided by the City, these temporary clinics offer the opportunity to receive the vaccine onsite.

- **Delivering In-Home Vaccination**

The City is delivering vaccine in-home to fully homebound New Yorkers — individuals who cannot leave their homes, even with assistance — working with existing in-home providers and building additional capacity to offer in-home vaccination. Fully homebound New Yorkers, including seniors and individuals with disabilities, can express interest by filling out the form at nyc.gov/homebound or by calling the NYC Vaccine Hotline at 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692).

Local Law 36 of 2021 (Int. 2225), sponsored by Council Member Mark Treyger and effective as of March 28, 2021, codifies the City’s efforts by mandating the establishment of a plan to vaccinate homebound seniors for COVID-19.

Specific initiatives to vaccinate New Yorkers are subject to change based on CDC and State guidance, vaccine supply, data analysis, and other factors as determined by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the NYC Vaccine Command Center.

Process for In-Home Vaccination

New York City is providing in-home COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible New York City residents who are fully homebound, have not already been vaccinated, and do not already have access to a vaccination program. Fully homebound New Yorkers are those who are physically unable to travel to a vaccination clinic, even with assistance.

- Homebound New Yorkers are identified through various mechanisms, including referrals from DFTA, Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), Medicaid insurers, community-based organizations, and self-identification by submission of the City’s online form and vaccine hotline. The City confirms that the New Yorker is fully homebound, schedules the home visit appointment, and makes appointments for any homecare worker or other eligible person in the household.
 - New Yorkers can express interest in receiving an in-home vaccination through the form at nyc.gov/homebound online or by calling the NYC Vaccine Hotline 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692). In addition, the City continues to make thousands of outbound calls to those that are known to be fully homebound through information provided by agency partners and Medicaid plans. The City contacts New Yorkers directly in order to verify their eligibility for the in-home vaccination program. New Yorkers who are not eligible for this particular program will be signed up for appointments, and connected to transportation options.

- The City’s in-home vaccination program deploys clinical teams to conduct scheduled home visits which include the required post-vaccine observation period for safety monitoring. All vaccinations are logged in the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).
- In addition to the City’s in-home vaccination program, healthcare providers already serving homebound patients also have the opportunity to offer in-home vaccination for their existing patients. These providers are screened by the City and if appropriate, provided vaccine allocation to vaccinate both homebound patients and their eligible health aides or caregivers. Vaccinations provided through these existing providers are also reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry and included in homebound vaccination totals.

Transportation Assistance

New York City offers free transportation services to its residents ages 65+ and individuals with disabilities (ages 16-64) to and from vaccination sites. Eligible passengers can request to be picked up anywhere in the five boroughs and taken to any vaccination site located within the City. For more information, call the NYC Vaccine Hotline: 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692).

Additional Information

For more information on the Vaccine Command Center, visit: nyc.gov/vcc

For more information on COVID-19 Vaccines, visit: nyc.gov/covidvaccine

New Yorkers can sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine online at nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or by calling the NYC Vaccine Hotline: 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692).