



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 18, 2024

Subject: DAL DACF 24-26
DAL NH 24-15
DAL HCBS 24-02

Dear Provider:

The new COVID-19 vaccine for the 2024-2025 season is now available in New York State. All eligible New Yorkers — especially those who are 65 and older, who are at risk for severe COVID-19 or have never received a COVID-19 vaccine — are encouraged to get the vaccine ahead of the respiratory illness season. New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald announced the Commissioner's standing order allowing all eligible New Yorkers to receive the new COVID-19 vaccine at any pharmacy in New York State without a prescription from their individual health care provider.

The 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccines are now available following the Food and Drug Administration's recent approval of the Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced that the vaccines are being shipped to health care providers and pharmacies. Major retail pharmacies are now taking appointments and some locations may accept walk-ins. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine for everyone six (6) months and older who has not received a COVID-19 vaccine in the past two (2) months to protect against potentially serious illness from COVID-19. Recommended dosages and the schedule vary depending on age, immune status, and COVID-19 vaccine history. Under the Affordable Care Act, most private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid plans cover COVID-19 vaccines without cost-sharing when received at an in-network provider or pharmacy. Those who are uninsured, or whose insurance does not cover the updated vaccine, will have access to the vaccine free of charge through community health centers or local health departments participating in the Department of Health ("Department") [Vaccines for Adults Program](#).

The flu, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and COVID-19 are contagious, respiratory viral infections that can have similar symptoms, making it difficult to distinguish between the three illnesses. People with chronic conditions, including those that affect the lungs and heart, young children, elderly populations, and pregnant people have a higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu, RSV, and COVID-19. The Department encourages long-term care facilities to provide flu and RSV vaccines to residents in addition to the 2024-25 COVID-19 vaccine. These are three separate vaccinations. As confirmed by [CDC guidance](#), it is safe to get all three vaccines at the same time.

Adult Care Facilities and Nursing Homes are reminded of the facility-specific requirements at Title 10 of New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations, §§ [66-4.1 and 66-4.2, respectively](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate program mailbox:
covidadultcareinfo@health.ny.gov; covidhomecareinfo@health.ny.gov; or
covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie A. Deetz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Valerie A. Deetz, Deputy Director
Office of Aging and Long-Term Care

cc: J. Morne
Dr. Heslin
C. Rodat
M. Chittenden
H. Hayes
B. Smith
K. Anderson
A. Cokgoren
M. Ferriter
S. Paton
K. Walker