

Tips for Getting a COVID Vaccine Appointment

Below is information that we hope can help you get an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine when you are eligible. These tips are based on news reports and word of mouth. We do not have access to appointments, and depending on supply and demand, there may be few appointments available at a given moment, but we hope this helps you navigate what is a very complicated, inefficient, and frustrating system. Our best advice generally is patience, persistence, and flexibility, since it typically takes a lot of effort to get an appointment, and being flexible as to where and when (and even jumping on an opportunity immediately) can make a difference. If you get offered an appointment that is still many weeks away, we suggest you take it but consider continuing to try other sites to see if you can get one sooner elsewhere (and then cancel the original appointment, of course). And we recommend that you schedule the appointment for your second shot before or at your first appointment.

For any website listed, please be prepared to check it often, refreshing frequently, since availability may change suddenly. Don't give up — if there's nothing available when you try, try again later, and repeat.

1. New York State and New York City official vaccine reservation telephone numbers and websites

NYS Covid 19 Vaccine Hotline: 1-833-697-4829

NYC Covid 19 Vaccine Hotline: 1-877-829-4692

NY State website: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>

NYC website: <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>. Enter your zip code and individual sites come up, which you then search one by one for availability. Sometimes the local smaller urgent care and private facilities can help. Some of the sites that come up here, like hospital networks, are also listed separately below.

Another NYC website: <https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/>

2. Hospital networks

NYC Health & Hospitals site — For Bellevue, etc.: <https://nyhealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-vaccines/>

NYU Langone has a “don't call us, we'll call you” approach, using an algorithm to determine who gets invited for the available shots. Set up a “mychart” account in the online patient portal if you don't already have one at <https://mychart.nyulmc.org/mychart/Authentication/Login>. Activate the text notice function so you will get quick notice of an appointment slot, or at least keep an ear open for any phone contact. You can also try 1-646-987-3545

Mt. Sinai/Beth Israel: Check <https://www.mountsinai.org/about/covid19/vaccineinformation/schedule> to see if appointments are available.

Weill/Cornell/NY Presbyterian: You have to have a Connect account (Weill-Cornell's online patient portal). The website for making appointments is <https://vaccinetogetherny.org>. You can also try the following phone number: 1-646-697-8222

3. Pharmacies: Register in advance on their websites if possible so that you can jump to availability quickly.

1. CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine#statetool>
2. Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19>
3. Rite-Aid: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/apt-scheduler>
4. Kinney Drugs: <https://secure.kinneydrugs.com/pharmacy/covid-19/vaccination-scheduling/ny/>
5. Top Value Pharmacy: <https://resilhealth.com/topvaluepharmacy>
6. Joseph Pharmacy: <https://www.josephspharmacy.com/>
7. City Chemist - Long Island City: <https://www.city-chemist.com/long-island-city-1>

4. Aggregators. Some people have set up websites to try to help others navigate by aggregating the information from multiple sources. They do not have access to additional appointment slots, but may be an easier way to find out what is available than the government sites.

www.turbovax.info

<https://nycvaccinelist>

5. Other Information

vaxstandby.com: Sign up to be contacted if a facility nearby has unused vaccine available.

<https://somosvaccinations.com>: Previously just setting up appointments for NYC employees and NYCHA residents, but now open to others, particularly in the Bronx.

Professional associations for specific groups qualifying for vaccination (like teachers) are circulating information about vaccine availability, so if you are in such a group, check there.

6. Transportation: There are options for free or subsidized transportation to vaccination sites outside the neighborhood.

If you already use **Access-a-Ride**, you can schedule transportation to your vaccination appointment like to any medical appointment.

If you have **Medicaid-provided transportation**, you can use your usual contact number to schedule transport.

Curb: If you are 65 or older, but cannot use public transportation nor have access to private transportation yourself or through a friend or family member, and have a confirmed vaccine appointment within NYC, you can schedule a free ride with Curb. When scheduling with Curb, you must indicate that you are getting a vaccine. Curb will confirm that your destination is a valid NYC vaccination site, and your ride will be scheduled for free. Call 646-349-0289, 24/7.