



ALLEN RILEY  
Chairman

THOMAS J. LOUGHREN  
Commissioner

## CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

**NO:** 1-2021

**DATE:** January 6, 2021

**TO:** SHERIFFS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, WARDENS, JAIL PHYSICIANS, and FACILITY MEDICAL DIRECTORS

**RE:** COVID-19 Vaccination Availability for Jail Health Staff

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The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is continuing to expand on its prioritization and allocation framework based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). As of January 2021, eligibility for receiving the vaccination in phase 1A is being expanded to include all outpatient/ambulatory front-line, high-risk health care workers who provide direct in-person patient care, as well as all public health care workers who provide direct in-person care, including those who conduct COVID-19 tests and handle lab specimens. Beginning this week, eligibility will also be expanded to include home care workers and aides, hospice workers, personal care aides, consumer-directed personal care workers and nursing home, adult care facility and other congregate setting workers.

As a result of this expansion, all jail medical personnel are now eligible to receive the vaccination, including, but not limited to, clinical physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, nurse administrators, Senior Utilization Review Nurses, Infection Control Nurses, LPNs, dentists, dental assistants and hygienists, optometrists, pharmacy supervisors, pharmacists, pharmacy aides, medical lab tech, psychiatrists, psychologists and other behavioral health workers.

New York State has launched a new "Am I Eligible" app to help New Yorkers determine their eligibility, connect them with administration centers, and schedule appointments. To access the app, as well as find the latest information concerning the vaccine and its administration, jail medical staff should visit: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

Once scheduled for a vaccination, health staff must provide proof of occupation/eligibility to the vaccination site. This could include an employee ID card, a letter from an employer or affiliated organization, or a pay stub, depending on the specific priority status. Providers will not vaccinate any person who does not have proof of their occupation or priority status. Executive Order 202.86 imposes monetary penalties for any provider vaccinating an individual who has not certified eligibility or for who the provider otherwise has knowledge the individual is not a member of a priority group. The NYSDOH vaccine form includes a self-attestation regarding

eligibility for vaccination, which must be completed prior to vaccination. Eligibility for the vaccine must be based on current employment status.

The development of COVID-19 vaccines marks a new phase for the entire country in the battle against this insidious disease, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in our country alone. Vaccination is what may ultimately save your life, as well as help protect you and your loved ones from becoming seriously ill, if you are exposed to COVID. You have a responsibility to protect yourself, as well as to help prevent the spread of the virus. You can do this by getting vaccinated and by complying with COVID-19 guidelines. Attached is a one-page vaccine instruction overview issued by the Department of Health for your information. After being vaccinated, it is important that you continue to follow all safety precautions, both in the workplace and in the community, including the continued wearing of a mask, social distancing and good hand hygiene.

The Commission of Correction takes seriously its mission to provide for a safe, stable and humane correctional system in New York State, which includes the safety and well-being of facility employees, their families, the surrounding communities and the incarcerated population. The Commission trusts that the administrations and staff of New York's local correctional facilities will continue to lead in the fight against COVID-19 by getting vaccinated and complying with COVID-19 guidelines. If you have any general questions regarding the vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider or visit the NYS COVID-19 Vaccine website at: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>



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Allen Riley, Chairman



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

### Instructions for Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine New York State Vaccination Program Phase 1A

It may soon be your turn to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in New York State!

There are currently two COVID-19 vaccines available, and both have been deemed safe and effective by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and a special task force made up of New York State medical and scientific experts.

The vaccines are also available at no cost to you.

You will need two doses of the same vaccine to be fully vaccinated.

Here's an easy way to find out whether it's your turn: Follow this website link to see if you are eligible for a vaccine. Please go to <https://am-i-eligible-qa.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> to find out.

The web page will ask for information such as your name, where you live, and what you do for a living. If you are in a priority group currently eligible for vaccination, the site will show you the location of nearby health care providers who can give you the vaccine. Just choose the one you prefer, and schedule the appointment.

If it's not yet your turn, you can check back anytime to find out when the time is right.

If you have any other questions about this process or general questions about the vaccine, please go to <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions> or to <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/what-you-need-know> to learn more.

No vaccine is 100% effective. While you wait to get the vaccine and even in the weeks **after** receiving both required doses, you must make sure to continue to:

- Wear a mask
- Socially distance from others (at least 6 feet apart)
- Practice good hand hygiene