The COVID-19 Vaccine is here to Protect you!

VillageCareMAX cares about your health, safety and well-being. It is our highest priority to ensure that you get the care you need, and to help protect you against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The first COVID-19 vaccines are here. Currently, there are two vaccines that have been authorized by the U.S. Food Drug & Administration (FDA). There are limited amounts of COVID-19 vaccines available during the first phase of the COVID-19 vaccination program in New York. However, the vaccine will become more widely available to the public once quantities increase.

Why is this information important?

- ✓ The COVID-19 disease has taken the lives of over 300,000 Americans and tens of thousands of New Yorkers**.** The numbers continue to increase daily. The COVID-19 vaccine will be the key to protect against the virus.
- ✓ It is important for you to understand the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine and be prepared to get the vaccine to protect yourself.

Who is at higher risk to get COVID-19?

- ✓ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), older adults and people who have severe chronic medical conditions like heart, lung, or kidney disease seem to be at higher risk for more serious COVID-19 illness.

If I had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?

- ✓ Yes. You can get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you had the COVID-19 infection.
- ✓ If you are currently infected with COVID-19, you should wait to get vaccinated until after you get better and completed all the guidelines from your healthcare provider.

What are the benefits of getting the COVID-19 Vaccine?

- ✓ Help keep you from getting COVID-19
  - COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19
- ✓ A safer way to help build protection
  - COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response
- ✓ An important tool to help stop the pandemic
  - The combination of getting vaccinated and following guidelines such as wearing masks and social distancing will offer the best protection from COVID-19. This will help reduce the spread of the disease in communities.

Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?

- ✓ Yes. Before the FDA determines whether to approve a vaccine or authorize a vaccine for emergency use, clinical trials are conducted to determine **how well it works.** This is known as **effectiveness**.
- ✓ CDC and FDA are also monitoring how the vaccine is working in real-time to make COVID-19 vaccines as safe as possible

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What are the COVID-19 Vaccines that ae available?

- ✓ Currently, two COVID-19 vaccines are authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19. Both vaccines are given via a shot in the muscle of upper arm.
    1. Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. Number of shots needed: 2 shots, 28 days apart
    2. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Number of shots needed: 2 shots, 21 days apart
- ✓ Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 1-2 weeks after the second dose

How does COVID-19 Vaccines Work?

- ✓ COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity (protection) to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- ✓ Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.
- ✓ The two authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States both need two shots to be effective.

What is the plan for people to get vaccinated?

- ✓ New York State will distribute the COVID-19 vaccine in phases based on need and risk.
- ✓ New Yorkers who are more likely to be exposed to the virus, and who are more likely to become seriously ill if they get COVID-19, will be offered the vaccine first.
- ✓ The goal is for everyone to be able to get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon an increased amount of vaccines is available.

Am I eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- ✓ As of January 11, 2021, New Yorkers in Phase 1a and Phase 1b are eligible for the vaccines. These groups include:
    - Individuals 65 years and older
    - Health care workers, resident & staff of nursing homes, emergency response workers, individuals in homeless shelters, all frontline workers who have direct contact with patients, etc.
- ✓ As vaccine availability increases, more people will become eligible to get the vaccine
    - New Yorkers can check their eligibility through the "**Am I Eligible? App"** on the New York State Department of Health website at: https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/

Where is the vaccine available?

- ✓ Health care providers including doctors' offices, hospitals, federally qualified health centers, etc.
- ✓ Retail Pharmacies – **people age 65 and over** are encouraged to get vaccinated at pharmacies
- ✓ State-run sites including the Jacob K. Javits Center
- ✓ Once the vaccine becomes widely available, the VaccineFinder website at https://www.vaccinefinder.org/ can be used to find a location near you to get the vaccine.

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How can I get the vaccine?

- ✓ **All vaccines are given by appointments only**. Appointments could take up to 14 weeks due to the limited supply of vaccine that New York gets from the federal government
  - Step 1: Determine eligibility at https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/
  - Step 2: Schedule appointment online or call your local pharmacy
  - Step 3: Complete the Vaccine Form at: https://forms.ny.gov/s3/vaccine
  - Step 4: Bring proof of eligibility to the appointment – ID that includes date of birth
- ✓ You can also call VillageCareMAX Member Services for additional assistance and questions.

Do I have to pay to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- ✓ You pay nothing to get the vaccine.
- ✓ Providers will get payment from Medicare or Medicaid to give the vaccine.
- ✓ Please bring your Medicare and/or Medicaid insurance card with you to your appointment.

What to do after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker

- ✓ **V-safe** is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
- ✓ Use your smartphone to tell CDC about any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ You will also get reminders if you need a second vaccine dose.
- ✓ When you get a COVID-19 vaccine, your healthcare provider will give you a v-safe information sheet. This sheet provides instructions on how to register and use v-safe

Where can I get more information?

- ✓ Speak to your health care provider
- ✓ Contact VillageCareMAX Member Services at 1-800-469-6292 (TTY: 711) from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, 7 days a week
- ✓ Visit the New York State Department of Health website at https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/
- ✓ Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/

Note: This information is updated often as VillageCareMAX gets new information about the COVID-19 vaccine. Please visit the VillageCareMAX website at www.villagecaremax.org for the most current information. You can also call Member Services at 1-800-469-6292 (TTY: 711) from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, 7 days a week.