



**UUP COVID-19 Vaccination Statement
(January 29, 2021)**

The COVID-19 Vaccine is Safe, Effective and Free!
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

Statement, in part, by UUP President Frederick E. Kowal calling for priority vaccinations for all SUNY on-campus employees
<https://uupinfo.org/communications/releases/210115.php>

“All of our members working on campus need to be vaccinated. We are committed to keeping our students, our campuses and our communities healthy and safe during this pandemic. Including them in Phase 1B will ensure that their health and safety is maintained and will allow us to continue to protect and to open our communities, our economy and our educational institutions.” (January 15, 2021)

The locations of State operated vaccination sites may be found at <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>. Most NYS vaccination sites are listing "No Appointments Available Currently". This notice exists as the result of a temporary backlog of vaccinations due to delays in Federal vaccine shipments. Once this backlog is addressed, appointments will again be available.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Coronavirus Vaccines

1. Is it safe?

Yes. Vaccine safety was a top priority in the vaccine approval process and will remain a top priority while CDC and federal partners work to make COVID-19 vaccines available.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

2. Is it Effective?

Yes. Both Pfizer and Moderna report that their vaccines show approximately 95% efficacy at preventing both mild and severe symptoms of COVID-19.
<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-what-you-need-to-know>

3. Is it free?

Yes. Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers can charge an

administration fee for giving someone the shot. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for this by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay the vaccine administration fee.

4. If offered a vaccination, should I take it?

Yes! Yes! Yes! Widespread vaccine use is a critical step in COVID-19 pandemic mitigation with the specific goal of reaching herd immunity. Until we arrive at this goal, all other public health measures, i.e., social distancing, hand washing and especially mask wearing must continue for the vaccinated population, those awaiting vaccination, and others. Exceptions are people who have an allergy to the ingredients of the shot or have had a serious case of COVID 19 infection.

5. What is the priority order for vaccination?

In NYS Phase 1A included frontline healthcare workers and nursing home residents. We have now entered Phase 1B which includes many public servants who are required to directly interact with the community, people aged 65yrs or older, and others. For a complete list see: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine> To check your personal eligibility for a Phase 1B vaccination go to: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> UUP is continuing to work to get student facing professional staff included in Phase 1B To date, these are the data for NYS vaccinations: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>

6. Where can I get the vaccine?

Sign up on the NYS site. <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> Distribution sites will include specific vaccinating facilities (i.e. a number of SUNY campuses, many pharmacies, and some doctor offices and clinics.) <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> Or call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).

7. What do I do if I have a reaction to a vaccine?

Common side effects include local injection site pain or swelling. You may also experience fever, chills, tiredness or headache.

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker> Severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to vaccines will most likely occur within about 15 minutes after vaccination. Plan to sit (masked) at the vaccine site after you are vaccinated (15 - 30 min depending on your history and the vaccination site's policy). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html> If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911. Consider using the CDC's "v-safe" after vaccination health checker to monitor your symptoms and provide confidential data for nationwide symptom tracking.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>

8. How flexible are the dates for the second vaccination?

Currently Pfizer recommends 21 days and Moderna 28 days +/- 4 days. However, if you miss your second vaccination, CDC says there is no maximum time between first and second vaccination. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

9. Once I receive a vaccine do I need to wear a mask, remain socially distant and engage in rigorous hand washing and sanitization?

YES! After being vaccinated you still need to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and continue to wash and sanitize your hands regularly. While the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have been shown to be 95% effective in preventing illness, vaccinated individuals might still infect unvaccinated individuals. It is known that after recovering from COVID, a small number of patients have experienced second infections. In some cases, they are symptomatic, but often they are asymptomatic. This may not be any different for the vaccines. Masking and social distancing is still needed to protect both yourselves as well as others – particularly those who have not yet been vaccinated. [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

10. How likely am I to be immune after the shot (when does full immunity occur)?

You have a ~95% chance of immunity at 2 weeks after the second injection [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines.](#)

11. How long will my immunity last?

This remains unclear. The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines may offer immunity against COVID-19 for up to two to three years. However, another COVID 19 vaccine may have to be administered annually. The vaccines will likely protect against most current variants of COVID-19 as well as the original virus itself. <https://www.verywellhealth.com/length-of-covid-19-vaccine-immunity-5094857>

12. What do I do if I think I still have contracted COVID after receiving the vaccine?

The vaccines are 95% effective. 5% of vaccinated individuals may still get COVID-19 after getting vaccinated, although the course of the disease is expected to be milder. So, please still wear a mask when with others, continue social distancing, hand washing and hand sanitizing. If concerned, contact your primary care physician.

13. What vaccines are available now (along with their schedule of immunization)?

Currently two vaccines are approved:

- a. Pfizer/BioNTech requires 2 doses (2nd dose 17-21 days after the first) and
- b. Moderna, also 2 doses but spaced another week out (2nd dose 24 to 28 days after the first).

14. What vaccines are soon to be available and how do they differ from the current vaccines?

Currently in Phase 3 clinical trials:

- a. Astra Zeneca/Oxford, also requiring 2 doses but ongoing clinical trials are also testing just one dose,
- b. Johnson & Johnson is testing a vaccine requiring 1 dose (preliminary data release to CDC and public on January 29, 2021 shows this vaccine to be 72% effective at preventing severe to moderate COVID-19, <https://www.jnj.com/our-company/johnson-johnson-announces-its-first-phase-3-covid-19-vaccine-trial-ensemble-is-fully-enrolled>) and
- c. Novavax requires 2 doses/3 weeks apart and efficacy results are pending.

15. Can I get COVID 19 from the vaccine?

No! COVID-19 vaccines do not use live virus and cannot give you COVID-19. The vaccine does not alter your DNA. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an immune response without having to experience sickness. Having symptoms like fever after you get a vaccine is normal and a sign your immune system is building protection against the virus. The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu, but they will go away in a few days. [Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines - Mayo Clinic](#)

For more information

1. **CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
2. **NYS DOH:** <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
3. **UUP:** <https://uupinfo.org/resources/covid19/>,
https://uupinfo.org/resources/covid19/pdf/UUP_COVID19_QA.pdf,
<https://uupinfo.org/communications/uupdate/210111.php>
4. **UB:** <https://www.buffalo.edu/coronavirus/health-and-safety/covid-19-dashboard.html>
5. **NIEHS:** <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/covid19worker/>
6. **UCSF:** <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/dashboard>
7. **Johns Hopkins Medicine:** <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/coronavirus/>
8. **New York Times:** [Covid-19 Vaccine: Answers to Key Questions - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

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