



## COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION FOR PEF MEMBERS



PEF has been at the forefront of the fight for safe workplaces during the COVID pandemic. A strong COVID control plan, including a strategic vaccination plan, is key to keeping workers safe on the job. PEF has advocated for the prioritization of our members to receive the vaccine if they so choose, especially those on the front lines and those denied or ineligible for remote work.

For the latest information on the COVID vaccine rollout, eligibility and prioritization categories, and vaccination Point of Distribution Sites (PODS) for New York State, visit their website at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine>

### **Q: Who is eligible to receive a vaccine?**

New York State began vaccinating those deemed eligible for Phase 1a and 1b, based on eligibility criteria recommended by the CDC and ACIP. The eligibility for 1b was greatly expanded on 1/11/2021 by New York State. Please click the above link to view the latest eligibility list.

### **Q: Do I contact PEF to get a vaccine?**

There have been erroneous reports that some unions, including PEF, will be providing or arranging for vaccinations. PEF is not a New York State approved Point of Distribution (POD) or Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). We must refer you to the New York State COVID Vaccine website, where you may link to the Eligibility app and COVID Vaccine Form.

### **Q: Where can I get the vaccine?**

First, check with your supervisor or agency personnel office. Some agencies, such as DOCCS and OMH, are offering vaccinations on-site. You also have the option to receive the vaccine at one of the PODS or eventually through your personal healthcare provider. However, if you choose to receive the vaccine off site, you will need to provide proof of vaccination to your employer upon request. If your worksite is not offering vaccines, or you wish to be vaccinated at another site, please refer to the next question for steps on how to register for the vaccine.

There is high demand for the vaccine and low availability. Your preferred vaccination site or county may not have vaccines available right away or may be booking weeks out. The current distribution rate of vaccines in NY is approximately 300,000 doses per week and the governor reports it will take at least 14 weeks to vaccinate those eligible in group 1a alone. Thus, it is important for you to keep checking back. If your employer offers the vaccine, we strongly encourage you to do so through them.

**New York State COVID-19: Phased Distribution of the Vaccine:**  
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine>

### **Q: What steps will I have to take to register for a vaccine?**

**Step 1: Determine eligibility and schedule an appointment.** First, you should complete the [Am I Eligible? App](#) to check your eligibility and find vaccination locations near you where you can schedule an appointment. You can also call the New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829). The hotline is open from 7:00AM to 10:00PM, seven days a week. Note that due to

limited supply from the federal government, it may be 12 or more weeks before an appointment is available to you.

**Step 2: Complete the Vaccine Form.** Once and only once you have a confirmed appointment, you must complete the [New York State COVID-19 Vaccine Form](#). This form can be completed online and you will receive a submission ID, or it can be completed at your vaccination site. (We encourage New Yorkers to complete the form ahead of time.)

**Step 3: Bring proof of eligibility to your appointment.** When you go to your vaccination site for your appointment, you must bring proof of eligibility. This may include an employee ID card, a letter from an employer or affiliated organization, or a pay stub, depending on the specific priority status. If you are eligible due to age, you should bring a form of ID (like a Driver's License or passport) that includes your date of birth.

### **Q: Will New York State have mass vaccination sites?**

Yes, New York State is setting up a number of mass vaccination sites around the state. Keep checking your local news and the NYS DOH site for more information at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

- SUNY Albany - Vaccinations will be given on campus in the university's Northwest Gold parking lot by appointment only, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including weekends. Individuals can make an appointment by calling the state's new vaccination hotline at 1-833-697-4829.
  - Unlike the COVID-19 test site on campus, the vaccination site will not operate as a drive-thru. Individuals who drive there can park their vehicles in the Northwest Gold lot, but must get out and receive their shot inside the tent, where they will be asked to wait for a short allergic reaction observation period after receiving their vaccine.
- Other state-run POD sites:
  - Scheduled to open the week of January 11, 2021 include: the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, the State Fair Expo Center in Onondaga County, the Westchester County Center, and Jones Beach in Nassau County (drive-thru).
  - Sites opening the week of January 18, 2021 include: SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island, SUNY Binghamton property in Johnson City, the Dome Arena in Rochester, the Plattsburgh Airport (drive-thru), SUNY Potsdam, the Utica Memorial Auditorium, the University at Buffalo South Campus, and the Aqueduct Race Track in Queens.

PEF will continue to advocate that New York prioritize its members to obtain the vaccine and to improve and streamline its vaccination rollout in the weeks to come. Please contact the PEF Health and Safety Department or your local PEF Field Office with any questions.

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**Funded in part by a NYS Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board  
Occupational Health Training and Education Grant**

*Upon request, the PEF Occupational Health & Safety Department will provide other factsheets, standards, regulations, and other resources. Contact us at [healthandsafety@pef.org](mailto:healthandsafety@pef.org) or 518-785-1900, ext. 254 or 1-800-342-4306, ext. 254.*

**Produced by the New York State Public Employees Federation**

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