COVID-19 VACCINE: YOUR BEST PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19

Chicagoans age 65 and older are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine

Everyone has been impacted by COVID-19. But now, there is a light at the end of the tunnel - a safe and effective vaccine that can protect you and help end the pandemic.

WHEN CAN I GET THE VACCINE?

If you’re age 65 or older, you’re now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine in Chicago. Due to limited supply, Chicagoans age 75 and older and Chicagoans age 65-74 with underlying medical conditions are being prioritized. Currently, supplies and appointments are limited but within a few weeks everyone in these groups will be able to get vaccinated.

HOW CAN I GET THE VACCINE?

There are multiple ways seniors can receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Chicago. Review the options to find the best way for you. Currently, there are no walk-in locations and you will need to register for an appointment. If you can’t register by yourself, ask a family member, friend or a neighbor for help.

Your Healthcare Provider

The best way to get vaccinated against COVID-19 is by calling your primary medical provider, health clinic, community health center, or hospital where you receive primary health care services. Ask how and where you can receive COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccine Appointment Tool

If you don’t have a regular doctor, you can use Zocdoc, the City’s vaccine appointment tool, to see real-time appointment availability and receive notifications when new appointments are available. For appointment assistance, contact the City’s COVID-19 helpline at 312-746-4835.

Your Local Pharmacy

You can also call your local pharmacy or check out the City's COVID-19 Vaccine Finder to find other locations offering COVID-19 vaccine.

Your Employer

If you’re employed, discuss your vaccination options with your employer. Learn more at the City's COVID-19 vaccine page for essential workers.

Independent Living Facility

If you live in an independent living facility, you will most likely get vaccinated through your facility’s vaccination program and do not need to take any other action.
Protect Chicago Plus
If you live in a community area that is part of the City's Protect Chicago Plus program, expect additional vaccination options within the next few weeks, including a fixed vaccination site and special events in your community.

**HOW CAN HOMEBOUND SENIORS GET VACCINATED?**

Homebound seniors living in senior buildings may have access to vaccination through a mobile vaccination team at the building. The Chicago Department of Public Health is working on planning for vaccinating homebound seniors living in the community. Caretakers of homebound seniors may be vaccinated as part of phase 1b.

**WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED?**

Older adults are at greater risk of requiring hospitalization or dying if they are diagnosed with COVID-19. As you get older, your risk of being hospitalized with severe COVID-19 infection increases.

**IS THE VACCINE SAFE FOR ME?**

COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large studies that included adults age 65 and older. Study results showed that the vaccines were safe and provided protection from COVID-19 in these older adults. COVID-19 vaccines do not use a live virus and cannot give you COVID-19. Side effects are less common in older adults than in younger people for both vaccines!

**CAN I GET VACCINATED IF I HAVE UNDERLYING MEDICAL CONDITIONS?**

Yes, COVID-19 vaccine is recommended and especially important for adults with underlying medical conditions, and some medical conditions increase risk for severe COVID-19 infection. Consult with your doctor if you have a history of significant allergic reactions to vaccines, food, or medicine.

**IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE FREE?**

Yes, the vaccine is offered at no cost to all Chicagoans, including those who are uninsured or undocumented.

You can find additional vaccination sites and information at [www.chicago.gov/COVIDvax](http://www.chicago.gov/COVIDvax), by emailing coronavirus@chicago.gov, or by calling the City of Chicago COVID-19 helpline at 312.746.4835.