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91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

January 11, 2021

Dear Friends,

This alert brings the most up-to-date information on signing up for the vaccine.

As of today, the NYS DOH website link "[Am I Eligible](#)" now provides access for signing up for the vaccine for individuals in Phase 1b. The ability to get a vaccine is limited by the supply of vaccines currently provided to New York, as contrasted with the much larger number of individuals in Phase 1b. It is important to sign up in advance even before the full supply of vaccines we need is available. All vaccines are scheduled on an appointment basis through the DOH. You cannot get a vaccine without an appointment.

Unless the production and allocation of vaccines to New York increases, the Governor has estimated that it will take until mid-April to vaccinate everyone in Phase 1b. I do hope that the new administration in Washington will take steps to improve the supply and production of the vaccine.

The vaccine supply and distribution situation are evolving daily. The best way to follow developments and access the vaccine if you are in Phase 1b is to go to the "[Am I Eligible?](#)" link. In addition, the DOH indicates that a call-in reservation number will be available after 4 PM today at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX ([1-833-697-4829](tel:1-833-697-4829)).

The best way to follow changing information on the vaccine distribution efforts is at the vaccine page on the [DOH website](#).

Infection rates for Covid-19 continue to rise. The new strain has arrived in the United States and is more easily transmitted. Please be careful and follow good practices.

Warm regards,



Westchester County Resources

Testing:

To find a testing site near you and to make an appointment, visit the [NYS Health Department](#) or call the **New York State Covid-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065**.

For help with quarantine and isolation: 866-588-0195

[Find a Test Site Near You](#)
(Testing is free at all NY run test sites)

Local Covid-19 Statistics:

- Westchester Covid-19 Stats by Municipality [HERE](#)
- School and University Covid-19 Statewide Tracker [HERE](#)
- Covid-19 hot spot address lookup [HERE](#)

Vaccine Eligibility:

- NY State Vaccine Eligibility and to make an appointment [HERE](#)



COVID-19 Eligibility and Distribution

The first COVID-19 vaccines are here. While availability is limited in the initial weeks of the vaccination program, more and more New Yorkers will become eligible as the vaccine supply increases. While the vaccination process is underway, every New Yorker should wear a mask, social distance and avoid small and large gatherings.

Two vaccines have been authorized by the FDA and approved by New York State's independent [COVID-19 Clinical Advisory Task Force](#): One that was developed by Pfizer and BioNTech and another that was developed by Moderna. Both vaccines require two doses.

As of today, January 11, 2021, New Yorkers in Phase 1a and segments of Phase 1b are [eligible](#) for the vaccines. **All vaccinations are by appointment only.** Eligible groups include doctors, nurses and health care workers, people age 75 and over, first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and public safety workers. Residents and staff at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities will continue to be vaccinated through a [federal program](#), which the state is providing resources to accelerate.

- Health care workers who are part of Phase 1a will continue to be vaccinated at hospitals and other clinical settings.
- People age 75 and over will primarily be vaccinated at pharmacies and other sites that are part of the "retail network." Use our [online tool](#) to find a location. Beginning at 4:00pm on Monday, January 11, the COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline will open for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX ([1-833-697-4829](tel:1-833-697-4829)).
- Public employees (for example, police departments, public school teachers and MTA employees) will primarily be vaccinated through their groups' relevant health programs or as organized by their unions.

To verify your eligibility and make an appointment, [CLICK HERE](#).

Rent Relief Deadline Extended

The deadline for renters to apply for help under the New York State COVID Rent Relief Program has been extended to **February 1, 2021** and eligibility has been expanded.

The program provides eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household's landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance.

Previous Applicants for COVID Rent Relief will not have to reapply to be reconsidered. Using the new criteria, New York State Home and Community Renewal will re-evaluate all previous applications who were denied and issue revised determination letters to applicants.

For the next round of applications, tenants will have to meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be a renter and have a primary residence in New York State;
- Applicants must have lost income during the period of April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020;
- Before March 7, 2020, household income must have been at or below 80% of the Area Median Income, adjusted for household size; and
- Households must be "rent burdened" during the months they are applying for assistance between April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

For help, applicants can contact HCR's COVID Rent Relief Extension Program Call Center for assistance at [1-833-499-0318](tel:1-833-499-0318) or covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov. Call Center representatives are available Monday through Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm.

Beware of Covid-19 Vaccine Scams

The Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection is warning all Westchester residents to be vigilant for Covid-19 vaccine scams as we enter the next phase of the pandemic. Any solicitation, via call, text or in-person, with offers to receive the vaccine should be ignored.

Tips for Westchester residents to avoid scams:

- Covid-19 vaccine is expected to be free.
- There are no sign-up lists for vaccine.
- You can't pay to get your vaccine earlier.
- Medicare or Social Security won't be calling you about getting your vaccine (scammers often act like they are calling from government agencies).
- You don't need to give out SSN, credit card or bank info before you are able to get vaccine.
- Turn to trusted sources - such as your local health department or your doctor for questions and guidance.

If you are contacted by someone looking to sell you early access to the vaccine, contact Westchester Consumer Protection at [914-995-2155](tel:914-995-2155) or at ConPro@westchestergov.com.



Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Reopens

The Small Business Administration is opening the next round of funding for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) beginning Monday January 11th for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only community financial institutions will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter.

If you wish to begin preparing your application, you can download the following PPP borrower application forms to see the information that will be requested from you when you apply with a lender:

- [Paycheck Protection Program First Draw Borrower Application Form](#) (revised 01/08/2021)
- [Paycheck Protection Program Second Draw Borrower Application Form](#) (01/08/2021)

Empire State Development Announces "Raising the Bar" Restaurant Recovery Fund

Restaurants can begin to apply to the Restaurant Recovery Fund starting today. This fund offers approximately \$3 million in reimbursement grants for up to \$5,000 to eligible businesses to assist with Covid-19 related safety measures.

To be eligible a restaurant must:

- Be full-service restaurants (NAICS code 722511), or establishments engaged in providing food services and meals prepared on-premises to patrons who traditionally order and are served while seated (i.e., waiter/waitress service), including on-premises food and drinking establishments licensed through the State Liquor Authority (SLA). Establishments providing take out or grab and go food services due to COVID-19 restrictions are also eligible.
- Franchises are not eligible;
- Have no more than \$3 million in 2019 revenue;
- Be located in New York State;
- Have been in operation on or before March 1, 2019;
- Certify and demonstrate that they have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19
- Agree to comply with all applicable New York State and local reopening guidance and
- COVID-19 health and safety policies, including the [New York Forward](#) reopening guidance and [Cluster Action Initiative](#) guidance, as well as SLA and DOH regulations.

Please click [HERE](#) for the eligibility, and application information.

