



Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

February 22, 2021

Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Persons Age 16 and Over Residing in Programs or Facilities Licensed or Certified by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS):

This letter is to notify provider agencies operating OCFS licensed or certified residential programs including foster care, close to home, detention, runaway and homeless youth, and domestic violence to provide for residents age 16 and over access to schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

This guidance is based on the guidance document issued by the NYS Department of Health effective February 15, 2021 titled: ["The New York State COVID-19 Vaccination"](#)

Available vaccines. The FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for two vaccines for use in the prevention of COVID-19:

- **Pfizer** vaccine for **persons 16 years of age and older.**
- **Moderna** vaccine for **persons 18 years of age and older.**

Fact sheets for each vaccine are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eua/index.html>.

Residents in congregate, residential facilities are eligible for vaccination and are eligible as part of Phase 1A of the NYS Vaccine Program.

Programs must assist residents who are eligible and able to provide or obtain consent to schedule a vaccination appointment. Such assistance must include a review of the vaccine fact sheet with the individual, the individual's parent or other person with legal authority to consent, to support informed consent decision making.

Consent. All recipients of the vaccine, or a person authorized by law to consent on their behalf, will be required to provide informed consent for the vaccine to be administered. The consent form is available on DOH's website at: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/final_covid-19_vaccine_consent_form.pdf.

- If the individual is 18 years of age or older and otherwise has the capacity to provide informed consent, the individual shall provide their own consent for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- If the individual is under 18 years of age or otherwise lacking capacity to consent, informed consent for the COVID-19 vaccine shall be obtained from the individual's parent or other person with legal authority to consent prior to the vaccination appointment.