



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

August 9, 2022

Dear Parents:

We are excited to announce that COVID-19 vaccines are now available for children ages 6 months and older. COVID-19 can cause serious illness in both children and adults. The safest way to protect yourself and your family against serious COVID-19 illness, including hospitalization and death, is to be vaccinated. Vaccination also helps prevent multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children ([MIS-C](#)), a serious condition where parts of the body become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, brain, and other organs.

Everyone ages 6 months and older should get COVID-19 vaccine, including people who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, and who have [medical conditions](#) that are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. Everyone ages 5 years and older should also get a COVID-19 booster shot. Vaccination provides extra protection, even in people who have had COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines, including those required for child care and school (listed [here](#)), can be given at the same medical visit. To schedule a COVID-19 vaccination, ask your medical provider if they offer vaccine or go to vaccinefinder.nyc.gov to find a vaccination site near you. You can also call 877-829-4692 (press 1 when asked) to schedule an appointment at certain sites. COVID-19 vaccines are free and available to people of all immigration statuses. You will not be asked about your immigration status at the vaccination site.

For additional information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit nyc.gov/health/covidvaccine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization