



Dear neighbor,

Happy spring! With the weather warming up and over a third of New Yorkers now fully vaccinated, our city feels alive and vibrant once again. The good news doesn't stop there: almost half of all New York residents have received their first dose of the COVID-19 shot and infection rates are the lowest they've been in 6 months. The not-so-great news: after months of high demand, eagerness to receive the vaccine has plummeted. Why? Well, most of the people who were excited about the vaccine and were able to access it have already received it. Now, we have arrived at the hard part.

The vaccines are safe and they work but vaccine hesitancy is real, and our challenge moving forward will be effectively dispelling lies and myths about vaccination. Equally as important will be ensuring that receiving a shot is easy. Not everyone has had the ability to refresh vaccine finders and take off work at a moment's notice. With vaccination sites now accepting walk-ins, it's crucial we encourage our family, friends, and neighbors who have yet to receive their shot to do so as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns over the vaccine or need help setting up an appointment, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. We are just a phone call or email away, and would be delighted to help.

Warmly,
Dan

Walk-in vaccinations: As of April 29, all mass vaccination sites in New York state and all NYC-run sites are open to walk-ins. Appointments are still available, however no longer necessary to receive the vaccine.

- To schedule an appointment at a city run site check [here](#) or call 1-877-VAX-4NYC.
- To schedule an appointment at a state run site check [here](#) or call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX.

Vaccination progress: As of May 1, more than one third of New Yorkers have been fully vaccinated, including over 3 million New York City residents! While we still have a ways to go, this important milestone is an indication we are heading in the right direction. In Manhattan, almost 50% of residents have been fully vaccinated and some 64% have received at least one dose.

You can track the city's progress [here](#) and the state's progress [here](#).

Vaccination cards: Do your very best not to lose your vaccination card as you may need proof of vaccination for international travel and other events. If you happen to lose your card, contact your vaccination provider or the state health department. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend taking a picture of your card to have a backup copy, just in case.

Excelsior Pass: New York recently launched the Excelsior Pass or as it is commonly known as – a vaccine passport. The app provides a free and secure way to present digital proof of vaccination. According to the Department of Health, the pass will be available 14 days after your final dose. It is completely voluntary and New Yorkers who do not want to take part in it, can still be admitted into stadiums, entertainment venues, businesses, etc. by showing an alternate proof of vaccination or testing. Learn more [here](#).

Rent and homeowner assistance: As the rental assistance program is being set up, the New York State Assembly and Senate passed legislation to extend the eviction moratorium from May 1 to August 31. We allocated over \$2.4 billion for rent and homeowner relief in the state budget and this extension will ensure adequate time to submit an application, which should be up by the end of the month. Both tenants and landlords can apply.

Latest Guidance for vaccinated people: The CDC recently released updated guidance for fully vaccinated people.

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated people:

- no longer need to wear masks outdoors, unless in a crowded setting or venue
- can visit other fully vaccinated people indoors without masks or social distancing
- can visit unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 without masks or social distancing
- can participate in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask, unless in a crowded setting
- can resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel, without self-quarantining after travel
- should refrain from testing and quarantine after a known exposure if asymptomatic

However, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- take precautions in indoor public settings by wearing well-fitting masks
- wear well-fitted masks when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people who are at severe risk of COVID-19
- wear a mask when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- avoid indoor large-sized in-person gatherings
- get tested if they experience COVID-19 symptoms

Easing of restrictions: In conjunction with New Jersey and Connecticut, New York recently announced that on May 19 the state will largely open. That means most capacity restrictions on

businesses like gyms, restaurants, retail stores, and more will be lifted. Further, limits on outdoor residential gathers will be removed. Broadway is expected to open at full capacity in September.

Reopening senior centers: The NYC Department for the Aging announced that senior centers will begin the first phase of reopening. The partial reopen is expected to begin May 10 but when the centers will reopen fully remains unclear. Along with the Manhattan Borough President and the Manhattan Vaccine Taskforce, I believe it's time we reopen senior centers. If older New Yorkers are fully vaccinated and can go to the movies, dine in at restaurants, and workout at the gym, why shouldn't they be able to go to their local senior center? We've formally requested the Mayor's office to move up reopening and will continue to advocate on behalf of our seniors.

Small business relief: The legislature allocated billions of dollars in the state budget to support small business recovery. To see all the loan and grant options available please visit [here](#) or reach out to our office if you have any questions.

Restoring subway service: Beginning May 17, subway service will resume operating 24/7. A fully functioning subway is crucial for workers and riders, as well as for the overall health of our city. I have advocated for service to resume for months and finally, it will.

Unemployment Insurance: While in many ways our city has bounced back, the unemployment rate remains high at around 11%. New Yorkers who lost their jobs in the beginning of the pandemic are approaching or have past their Benefit Year Ending and some may have to file a new claim. This Department of Labor [factsheet](#) may be helpful.

We are actively working with constituents to resolve any issues that come up with their unemployment insurance. If you are having any trouble, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office and we will do our very best to assist you.