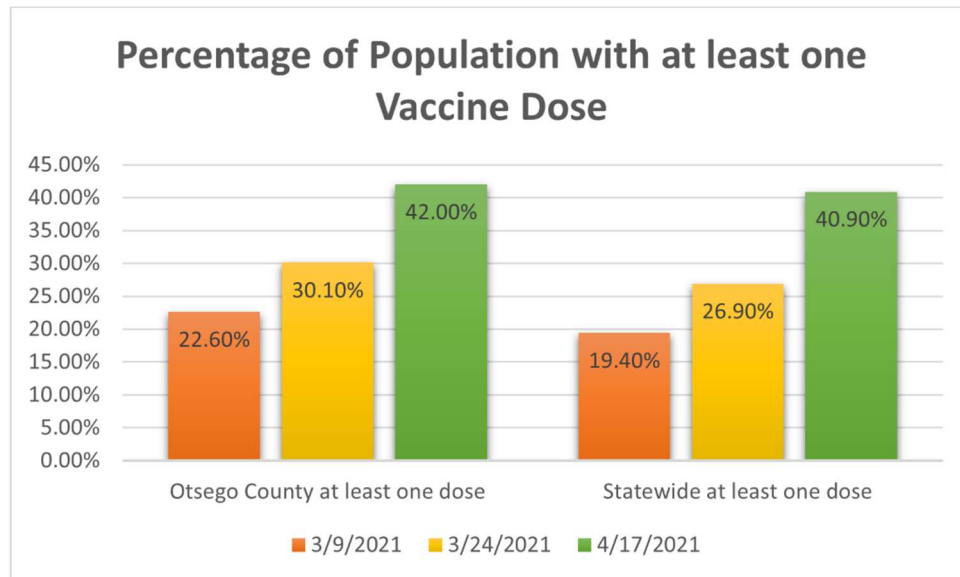




COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF OTSEGO
COUNTY

GUIDE TO GETTING A VACCINE APPOINTMENT IN OTSEGO COUNTY

This guide is designed to help you, whether you choose to get a vaccine at SUNY Oneonta, a pharmacy, or a clinic. If you need transportation to an appointment, are homebound, or just need some extra help getting an appointment, we list resources available to you. And, if you or a loved one have questions about the vaccine, we offer resources where you can get sound medical advice. **According to Bassett Healthcare Network, "COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective...Every vaccination brings us one step closer to ending this pandemic."**



Source: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>

As of April 17, 42 percent of Otsego County residents have received at least one vaccine dose. One dose vaccination rates range from a high of 61.4 percent in Hamilton County to a low of 29.2 percent in Allegheny County. Statewide, the rate is 40.9 percent.

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HOW TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT AT SUNY ONEONTA OR ANOTHER STATE-RUN SITE www.ny.gov/vaccine

The New York State mass vaccination site in Otsego County is at SUNY Oneonta at the Alumni Field House, 108 Ravine Parkway, in Oneonta. The site can provide up to 1000 vaccines a day.

Appointments are offered seven days a week from 8:00 am to 6:15 pm. As of April 17, you could get an appointment within one day at SUNY Oneonta. (Availability changes multiply times each day)

Other State-run sites are at SUNY Poly in Utica, SUNY Albany, and SUNY Binghamton.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE

<https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BY PHONE

Check your eligibility and schedule your appointment by calling the **New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline** at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).

- Callers have found that they are connected to a live person within 2 minutes.
- There is an option that gives priority to callers who are 75 or older.
- There are options to speak with people in Spanish and other languages.
- On average, it takes about eight minutes to sign up for an appointment by phone.

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

- Name, address, zip code
- Date of birth (all New Yorkers 16+ can get a vaccine)
- If you live or work in New York State
- Phone number and email
- Insurance information (if you have commercial insurance, Medicare or Medicaid) Vaccines are provided free of charge, even if you do not have insurance.
- You will also need to answer some health-related questions.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO GET A VACCINE AT SUNY ONEONTA?

- Reports from people who have received their vaccine at SUNY Oneonta are very positive. There is a lot of signage to guide you to the site. Members of the National Guard are there to direct you to the right place and answer questions. Everyone is friendly and helpful, and it is very efficient.

HOW TO GET A VACCINE APPOINTMENT AT A PHARMACY OR CLINIC

You can also get a COVID vaccine at the following retail pharmacies and at clinics scheduled by Bassett Healthcare Network and the Otsego County Department of Health.

- **OTSEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/d-m/health_department/covid-19_vaccination_clinics.php

- Vaccination clinics will be listed on their website if any are available. They run clinics at the Otsego County Meadows Complex at 140 County Highway 33, and at pop-up locations around the County.
- Have a cellphone? Download the free app “Otsego County Department of Health” from an app store and be notified when clinics are available. Works for both Apple and Android.
- The Department of Health is coordinating home visits for homebound individuals: email them at covidvaccine@otsegocounty.com, include name, physical address, and phone number. If you do not have email and want to arrange a homebound visit, call the Office for the Aging, 607/547-4232. This service is for Otsego County residents.

- **OTSEGO COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING 607/547-4232**

https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/office_for_the_aging/index.php

- **Staff can assist any Otsego County resident who does not have internet access or who would like help scheduling a vaccine appointment. Call 607/547-4232.** They help about 25 people a day.
- They can provide transportation to local vaccine clinics for residents 60+.

- **BASSETT HEALTHCARE NETWORK**

<https://www.bassett.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>

- Updates will be posted as clinics become available
- Bassett also has information about COVID-19 and COVID vaccines, answering frequently asked questions.

RETAIL PHARMACIES

- **KINNEY DRUG**

<https://www.kinneydrugs.com/pharmacy/covid-19/vaccination-scheduling/ny/>

- Sign up for text or email alerts to be notified when appointments are available near your zip code. <https://secure.kinneydrugs.com/>
- There is a Kinney Drug in Richfield Springs at 10 Main Street.
- Kinney opens new appointment blocks on a *weekly* basis. New appointments become available once the state confirms that vaccine is on the way.
- They have the Moderna vaccine, which is for people 18+

- **CVS**

<https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine...>

- CVS stores offering vaccine appointments include: Cooperstown, Little Falls, Clinton, Margaretville, Walton, and Cobleskill.

- **RITE AID**

<https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier>

- There are two Rite Aid stores in Oneonta.

- **WALGREENS**

<https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19>

- Create a Walgreens account to schedule an appointment. They post new appointments promptly at **12 am** and **7 am**. The website works best using Google Chrome.
- There are two Walgreens in Oneonta, and other stores in Sidney, Palantine Bridge, Herkimer.
- If you are helping someone else register, you will need their Walgreens account information or help them set one up. Notifications go to the email address, which you or the person you are helping need access to.

VACCINEFINDER <https://vaccinefinder.org/> is a free service that lets you search by zip code for locations that offer vaccinations. The data is not always up to date, but it is useful if you're wondering which pharmacies or clinics close to you may have vaccine appointments. VaccineFinder is operated by Boston Children's Hospital.

HOW TO GET A ROUND-TRIP RIDE TO A COVID VACCINATION FOR THOSE IN NEED

If you cannot get to a vaccine appointment on your own, or with the help of a friend or family member, there are resources available to provide you with a free, safe, and comfortable ride.

GETTHERE

- Anyone who lives in Otsego County, can contact GetThere to arrange transportation to and from a vaccine appointment. Once you have an appointment scheduled, call 1-855/373-4040 to schedule your ride. The call center is open Monday-Friday, 7am – 7pm. GetThere, a program of the Rural Health Network of South Central New York, also is available to people who live in Broome, Chenango, Delaware or Tioga counties. Please note no referral is needed for this service other than proof of appointment. <https://gettherescny.org>

OPT (ONEONTA PUBLIC TRANSIT) AND THE CITY OF ONEONTA

- OPT is offering free round trip bus rides to those with proof of a vaccine appointment at the SUNY Oneonta Vaccination Site. This offer includes all normal routes and riders will be dropped off and picked up at the Fine Arts stop at SUNY Oneonta. Schedule information at www.optrides.com. Riders must provide proof of appointment to the driver (drivers will not keep or copy the confirmation) for this free service. Those that qualify for paratransit should call and schedule their ride with dispatch as normal. For questions about OPT rides, call 607/432-7100.

OTSEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF THE AGING AND NY CONNECTS

- Otsego County residents who are 60+ can call the Otsego County Office of the Aging to arrange for a ride to local vaccine appointments. Call 607/547-4232. https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/office_for_the_aging/index.php

MAS

Otsego County Medicaid beneficiaries can call 1-866/333-1030 to arrange a ride to an appointment. <https://www.medanswering.com/locations/nys/flnny/otsego/>

RESCHEDULING AND CANCELLING NEW YORK STATE APPOINTMENTS

- Once you have a confirmed appointment, you may check back for a closer location or earlier appointment.
- If you get a better appointment, cancel the previous appointment using the link in your confirmation email or text. If the appointment you want to cancel is at SUNY Oneonta or another state-run site, you can also cancel by calling the Hotline 1-833-697-4829.
- It is important to cancel any unwanted appointments, so others can be helped.
- If you have already received one dose of a vaccine, you should go to the same place to receive your second dose.

MORE INFORMATION

- Reports from people who have received their vaccine at SUNY Oneonta are very positive. There is a lot of signage to guide you to the site. Members of the National Guard are there to direct you to the right place and answer questions. Everyone is friendly and helpful, and it is very efficient.
- People who have received vaccines at local pharmacies and clinics have said the experience was straight-forward and people were helpful and friendly there too.
- Once you have a vaccine appointment, you may want to ask family members, friends, and neighbors if they would like help scheduling an appointment.

RESOURCES IN SPANISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES

- In addition to English, the New York State Department of Health website has information written in Spanish, Korean, Russian, Chinese, Bengali, and Haitian Creole.
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions-0>

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VACCINE

- Talk to your doctor.
- Bassett Healthcare Network provides answers to frequently asked questions about vaccines <https://www.bassett.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>
- The New York State Department of Health has detailed information on eligibility, distribution, vaccine safety, and stopping the spread of COVID-19. <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions-0>
- The COVID Collaborative and the Ad Council have developed the website <https://getvaccineanswers.org/>

Dr. Kelly Rudd, director of pharmacy services for Bassett Healthcare, recently said in *The Daily Star*, **“Everyone’s first question is whether these vaccines should be trusted. There’s no stronger encouragement I can offer than this: I have been vaccinated and I would encourage anyone I love to get any of the vaccines as soon as they become eligible. I trust the vaccines. My trust is founded in my understanding of the strong and sound science behind them...We must act on this opportunity to finally end this pandemic together.”**

The Community Foundation of Otsego County put together this guide based on the experience of Dr. Richard Sternberg, Rebecca Weil, and others who have been helping people get vaccine appointments.

UPDATES/CORRECTIONS

If you have updates or corrections to this guide, please email Peg Odell at the Community Foundation of Otsego County pegodell@cfotsego.org. We appreciate your feedback. Thank you.

This guide is updated on a regular basis and also posted on the CFOC website, <https://cfotsego.org/>.