



## Help Keep the People We Support Safe During the COVID-19 Winter Surge

### Get Vaccinated, Get Boosted & Wear A Mask!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We've come a long way since the COVID-19 pandemic began almost two years ago, and much progress has been made. Just recently, we observed the first anniversary of the very first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine that was given right here in New York State. THANK YOU to all of you who have been vaccinated and have encouraged your loved ones, staff and the people we support to be vaccinated as well. Working together, we've prevented illness and have saved lives. But our work is far from done. Our concerted effort is needed now more than ever as we push back against the COVID-19 winter surge. As the weather turns colder, we hear the concerning numbers of new COVID-19 infections and learn of new variants. I appeal to you to encourage your staff and the people you support to get their booster shots as soon as possible if they've already been vaccinated and to get their vaccine if they haven't yet done so. [Free booster shots are widely available.](#)

People with developmental disabilities and people with weakened immune systems continue to be among some of the most vulnerable when it comes to COVID-19. Every person we can get vaccinated and boosted helps protect the people we support. Attached, please find a [COVID-19 In Plain Language Booster Flyer](#) we've created to help you communicate with the people you support and families about why it's essential. Feel free to share this widely. Please keep a close eye on our OPWDD social media accounts for up-to-date information that you can like and share with your contacts.

You can find all the latest information about the vaccine and the booster shot on the [Governor's website here](#): .

Working together, we will encourage widespread vaccination and beat this virus. I wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season.

Kerri Neifeld  
Acting Commissioner

**COVID-19 Boosters**  
Is it time for you get your Booster?

When to Boost	Moderna	Pfizer	J&J
Everyone 18 or Older	6 Months after your second shot	6 Months after your second shot	2 Months after your shot

Talk to your Care Manager or your provider agency about getting a booster.

**Doctors say you should get a booster if:**

- you are 18 years old or older, and
- You had two shots of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine

The booster is another dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.  
A booster will help you not catch COVID-19.  
A booster will help you not get very sick from COVID-19 if you do catch it.  
Getting a booster helps you stay safe and keep others safe. A booster helps everyone be safer.  
The booster may make your arm sore or make you feel a little sick at first. But, that should not last long.

**Remember to use all your tools to fight Covid-19**

- Get Vaccinated
- Wear Your Mask
- Social Distance
- Wash Your Hands

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities | WEAR A MASK | STOP THE SPREAD. | SAVE LIVES.