

**NORTHEAST PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2025-2026 COVID-19 VACCINE**

ver: 9/15/2025

Background

The Northeast Public Health Collaborative is a voluntary coalition of regional public health agencies and leaders, brought together to share expertise, improve coordination, enhance capacity, strengthen regional readiness and protect evidence-based public health. In summer of 2025, the Collaborative's Immunization Working Group, consisting of immunization and epidemiology experts in each jurisdiction, was charged by the Leadership Group, consisting of state health officials and/or their designees, to review the scientific evidence, public health considerations, and existing recommendations pertaining to the 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine. This was accomplished, with the following recommendations written and approved by the Leadership Group.

The recommendations below are consistent with the Fall 2025 COVID-19 vaccination recommendations from the following US professional medical societies:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology](#)
- [American Academy of Family Physicians](#)

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Vaccination against COVID-19 is recommended for all children 6-23 months

All children ages 6-23 months **should be** vaccinated.

Recommendations for vaccination against COVID-19 for children 2-18 years

Children and adolescents ages 2-18 years who fall within one of the following subgroups **should be** vaccinated:

- o At high risk for severe COVID-19 (Table 1)
- o Living in a long-term care facility or other congregate setting
- o Have never been vaccinated against COVID-19
- o Whose household members are at high risk for severe COVID-19

Healthy children and adolescents 2 - 18 years, who do not fall into the categories above, **may be** vaccinated.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is recommended for all adults 19-64 years

All adults 19-64 years are recommended to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This includes the following groups of adults 19-64 years who **should** be vaccinated:

- Persons with risk factors for severe COVID-19 disease (e.g., chronic conditions, immunocompromised status)
- Persons at higher risk of exposure (e.g., healthcare workers, congregate care settings)
- Persons who are household contacts of persons at high risk of severe disease

Vaccination against COVID-19 is recommended for all adults 65 years or older

All adults 65 years and older **should be** vaccinated.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is recommended for all pregnant persons

People who are pregnant, contemplating pregnancy or have recently been pregnant and those who are lactating **should be** vaccinated.

- o Vaccination may occur in any trimester.
- o For lactating individuals, there is no need to stop or delay breastfeeding.
- o There is no need to delay pregnancy following a COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunocompromised individuals should have a conversation with their primary care provider about additional doses needed.

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Table 1: Populations Recommended for Vaccination Including Those at High Risk for Severe COVID-19 Among Children Ages 6 Months Through 18 Years*

Population Characteristics	
Infants and children 6 through 23 months of age	
Residents of long-term care facilities or other congregate settings ^a	
Children who have never been vaccinated against COVID-19	
Infants and children with household contacts who are at high risk for severe COVID-19	
Underlying Condition or Treatment with Common Examples ^b	
Chronic pulmonary disease	Asthma/reactive airway disease Chronic lung disease of prematurity Compromised respiratory function (e.g., abnormality of airway, tracheostomy, or ventilator dependent)
Cardiovascular disease	Congenital heart disease
Gastrointestinal Disorders	Feeding tube dependent Inflammatory bowel disease
Hepatic Disease	Chronic liver disease
Hematologic Disease	Sickle cell disease
Metabolic Disorders	Diabetes mellitus
Obesity	BMI $\geq$ the 95 th percentile in children
Neurologic and neurodevelopmental conditions	Cerebral palsy Epilepsy Intellectual developmental disorder Compromised mobility (e.g., wheelchair dependent)
Immunosuppressive Conditions ^c	Receipt of immunosuppressive therapy Primary immunodeficiency HIV Infection Receipt of hematopoietic cell transplant or solid organ transplant
Rheumatologic, autoimmune disease	Systemic lupus erythematosus Juvenile idiopathic arthritis

a. Congregate care settings refer to places where individuals live together in structured environments outside of their home, including residential treatment facilities, group homes, emergency shelters, juvenile detention centers, etc.

b. List of examples is not exhaustive.

c. Children who are moderately or severely immunocompromised require 2 or more doses of COVID19 vaccine.

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Table 2: CDC 2025 List of Underlying Medical Conditions That Increase a Person's Risk of Severe COVID-19 †

Adults ages 18-64 years at higher risk of exposure (e.g., healthcare workers, congregate care settings)
Adults ages 18-64 who are household contacts of persons at high risk of severe disease
Asthma
Cancer ▪ Hematologic malignancies
Cerebrovascular disease
Chronic kidney disease* ▪ People receiving dialysis^
Chronic lung diseases limited to the following: ▪ Bronchiectasis ▪ COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) ▪ Interstitial lung disease ▪ Pulmonary embolism ▪ Pulmonary hypertension
Chronic liver disease limited to the following: ▪ Cirrhosis ▪ Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease ▪ Alcoholic liver disease ▪ Autoimmune hepatitis
Cystic Fibrosis
Diabetes mellitus, type 1
Diabetes mellitus, type 2*
Disabilities ‡, including Down's syndrome
Epilepsy
Hemophilia
Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies)
HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)
Mental health conditions limited to the following: ▪ Mood disorders, including depression ▪ Schizophrenia spectrum disorders
Neurologic conditions limited to dementia ‡ and Parkinson's disease
Obesity (BMI ≥ 30 or ≥ 95 th percentile in children)
Overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m ² but < 30 kg/m ²)
Physical inactivity
Pregnancy (pregnant, postpartum, lactating, or planning pregnancy) (See Note)
Primary immunodeficiencies
Sickle cell disease
Smoking, current and former
Substance use disorders
Solid-organ or blood stem-cell transplantation
Tuberculosis
Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications

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Table 2 footnotes:

* Indicates presence of evidence for pregnant and nonpregnant women.

^ Risk may be further increased for people receiving dialysis

‡ Underlying conditions for which there is evidence in pediatric patients.

¥ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19. CDC. Published June 11, 2025. Accessed September 4, 2025.

<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/clinical-care/underlying-conditions.html>. This resource provides detailed evidence grading for each clinical condition listed in the table.