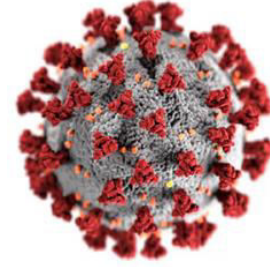


**DC 37 SAFETY AND HEALTH  
HEALTH ALERT  
UPDATED COVID-19**



**COVID-19 cases are on the rise.**

CDC recommends everyone ages 6 months and older receive an updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine. This will protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 this fall and winter whether or not previously vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine.

As COVID-19 variants continue to change, it is important to receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine which targets newer strains as COVID-19 vaccines effectiveness decrease overtime.

On August 22, 2024, the FDA authorized and approved updated 2024-25 messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) COVID-19 vaccines. Given the introduction of updated vaccines, 2023-24 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines can no longer be administered, therefore ending doses available through the Bridge Access Program.

**Coming soon order your free COVID-19 tests at the end of September.**

U.S. households will be eligible to order 4 free COVID-19 tests at [COVIDTests.gov](https://covidtests.gov). The COVID-19 tests will detect current COVID-19 variants and can be used through the end of the year.

With the updated and authorized updated COVID-19 vaccines now recommended for use ([link to CDC statement](#)), CDC has taken steps to ensure all Americans are able to receive these vaccines at no-cost from their local provider, community health center, or pharmacy.

**Recommendations:**

- If you are not feeling well, contact your primary care physician for medical advice.
- Follow Universal Precautions , hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment, and cough etiquette
- Practice social distancing when in large crowds.
- Keep up with Covid-19 vaccines and boosters.

<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03360>

<https://www.cdc.gov/icatt/index.html>

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcas/agencies/covid-19-city-guidance.page>

Contact your Agency Human Resources regarding time and leave questions.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024