



**Department of Health
& Mental Hygiene**

**Department of
Education**

June 24, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for all that you continue to do to support and educate NYC's children during this unprecedented time. We recognize that the COVID-19 public health emergency has presented numerous challenges. You have met those challenges with dedication and flexibility, and we want to make sure you have every tool you need to keep you and your communities safe. One of the most powerful tools we have to end this pandemic is the COVID-19 vaccine.

As we look toward a return to school buildings for every student this fall, it is important to spread the word that everyone age 12 and older is eligible to get vaccinated. All of the vaccines available in the U.S. authorization by the Food and Drug Administration have been shown to be safe and extremely effective at preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19. Vaccines help us develop immunity without disease.

You can help instill confidence in your students, colleagues and community by sharing your story about why you got vaccinated or passing on the facts about the vaccines. If you have not been vaccinated yet, we encourage you to get a COVID-19 vaccine and set an important example. We know there are New Yorkers who still have questions or concerns, and we are dedicated to addressing them. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has a number of resources with information:

- [COVID-19: Vaccine webpage](#): includes the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines (such as how to find a vaccination site, vaccine eligibility and what you can do once fully vaccinated)
- [COVID-19: Vaccine Facts webpage](#): includes information on common issues and questions about the vaccines
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccines for Families and Educators](#)
- [Understanding the COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- Videos
 - [Doctors of the NYC Department of Health PSA on COVID-19 vaccines](#)
 - [Community Providers on COVID-19 vaccines](#)
 - [Pregnancy, Nursing and Fertility](#)

Vaccines are essential to stopping this pandemic. When you support COVID-19 vaccination, you help to protect your school and your community against COVID-19.


For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit nyc.gov/covidvaccine or call **311**. To find out where you or your loved ones can get vaccinated, visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692). You can also sign up by visiting nyc.gov/homebound or calling 877-VAX-4NYC for an in-home vaccination.

Thank you for all you do, and have a great end to the school year.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Meisha Porter in black ink.

Meisha Porter
Chancellor
Department of Education

Handwritten signature of Dave A. Chokshi in black ink.

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene