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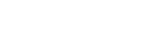
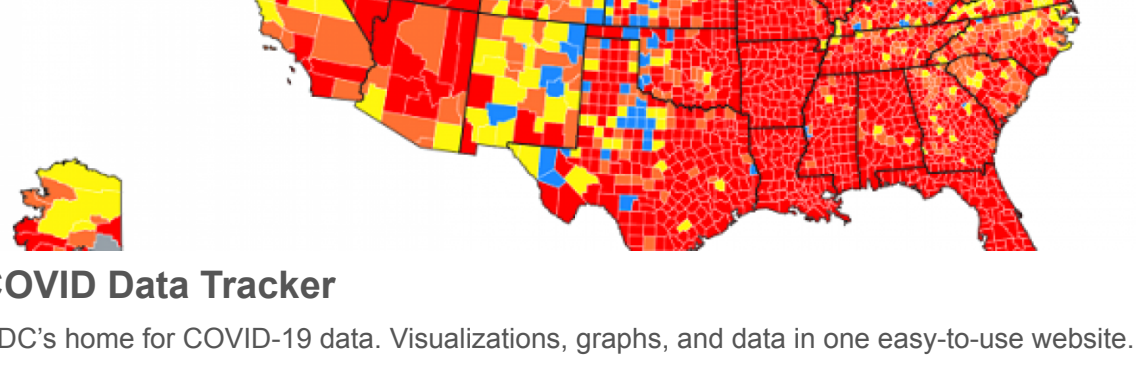
!!Scroll down for info on New York Vaccine Clinic!!

CDC Data Shows Better Outcomes Among Those Who Are Vaccinated

CDC reports rates of COVID -19 cases and deaths by Vaccination Status.

In summary, people who were unvaccinated had a greater risk of testing positive for COVID-19 and a greater risk of dying from COVID-19 than people who were fully vaccinated (see below for the most recent rates).
Unvaccinated people in all age groups had higher case rates than fully vaccinated people in the same age groups.
Unvaccinated people in all age groups had higher death rates than fully vaccinated people in the same age groups.
Unvaccinated people ages 50 years and older had higher death rates than those in younger age groups, with the highest rates among unvaccinated people ages 80 years and older.
Fully vaccinated people ages 80 years and older had higher death rates than vaccinated people in younger age groups.

Case and death rates for people fully vaccinated with any of the three vaccine products (Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson's Janssen) were much lower than for unvaccinated people.



COVID Data Tracker

CDC's home for COVID-19 data. Visualizations, graphs, and data in one easy-to-use website.



www.cfsny.org

Don't Forget - Mask Up! It's required!

OPWDD issued emergency regulations (14 NYCRR §633.26) requiring all agencies providing services or operating facilities that are certified or operated by OPWDD to require all staff, volunteers, contractors, vendors, visitors and individuals receiving services to wear appropriate face coverings consistent with any directives issued by OPWDD and consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to slow the spread of COVID19 and to protect the individuals served by OPWDD and OPWDD providers and the staff that support them. CDC guidelines, in accordance with OSHA standards, has clarified that cloth masks are not considered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). **Surgical masks, KN95s and N95 are "typically cleared by the US Food and Drug Administration" and are the appropriate "masks/face coverings" to be used as PPE.**

We have appropriate masks available, please reach out to your direct supervisor to coordinate getting these masks.

For NY Community Staff, you can visit our locations to pick up masks on the following days:

Bronx office Wednesdays 9am - 3pm

Floral Park office Thursdays 10am - 3pm

Staten Island office Wednesdays 10am - 2pm**

Manhattan office Fridays 10am - 2pm

****New Staten Island Office Location - 800 Annadale Rd Staten Island NY 10312**



Mask Wearing 101: How to Properly Use & Re-use a Mask

In order for a mask to offer protection — rather than becoming a vehicle for COVID-19 germ-spreading — it must be handled, worn and stored properly. This ste...



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Another WHY Story

I'm fully vaccinated, boosted , and no, I don't know what's in it - neither this vaccine or the ones I had as a child or other treatments whether it's for cancer, AIDS, or any other medical treatments.

Not to mention I still have no clue what the 11 secret herbs and spices at KFC, or what the hell's in hot dog or bologna!

I don't know all the ingredients in Ibuprofen, Tylenol, or other meds, it just cures my headaches & my pains.

I don't know what's in the ink for tattoos, vaping, Botox and fillers, or every ingredient in my soap or shampoo or even deodorants. I don't know the long term effect of mobile phone use or whether or not that restaurant I just ate at REALLY used clean foods and washed their hands.

In short ...

There's a lot of things I don't know and never will...

I just know one thing: life is short, very short, and I still want to do something other than just going to work every day or staying locked in my home. I still want to travel and hug people without fear and find a little feeling of life "before".

As a child and as an adult I've been vaccinated for mumps, measles, polio, chickenpox, and quite a few others; my parents and I trusted the science and never had to suffer through or transmit any of the said diseases and,

I'm vaccinated, not to please the government but:

* To NOT get really sick or die from COVID.

* To NOT clutter a hospital bed if I get sick.

* To NOT have to do PCR or antigenic tests to go to a restaurant, go on holidays and many more things to come ...

* To live my life.

* To see and hug my family and friends

* For COVID to be an old memory.

* To protect us.

Gail Burr, Operations Manager

New York Vaccination Incentive Payment

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 14, 2022! It is not too late to get your vaccination if you have not done so already.

CFS has been informed that New York State has received a new grant which includes a COVID 19 vaccination incentive payment, a longevity retention bonus and other types of bonuses.

All NY DSP employees who has been fully vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccine by January 14, 2022 will be eligible to receive an incentive payment as described below. For those that may begin their vaccination regimen prior to November 30th you will be eligible to receive this bonus when fully vaccinated. Incentive payments will be made only if you provide proof of vaccination. You may send your COVID 19 vaccination card to HRvacstats@cfsny.org, our confidential HR email address.

Payments will be distributed as follows:

A payment of \$500 per employee who is employed on a full-time basis

A payment of \$250 per employee who is employed at least, but not less than 20 hours/week, and

A payment of \$125 for part-time employees who are employed less than 20 hours/week.

Please be advised the sooner that we are informed that you have received your vaccination, the sooner we can issue the incentive payment .

Regarding the incentive payments on the longevity, retention and other types of bonuses, we are currently awaiting on guidance. We will inform you as soon as we receive more information. Once again, we want to say that we appreciate and thank you for your hard work and commitment. Any questions, please let me know.

Annis Valdez-Godek, SHRM-CP

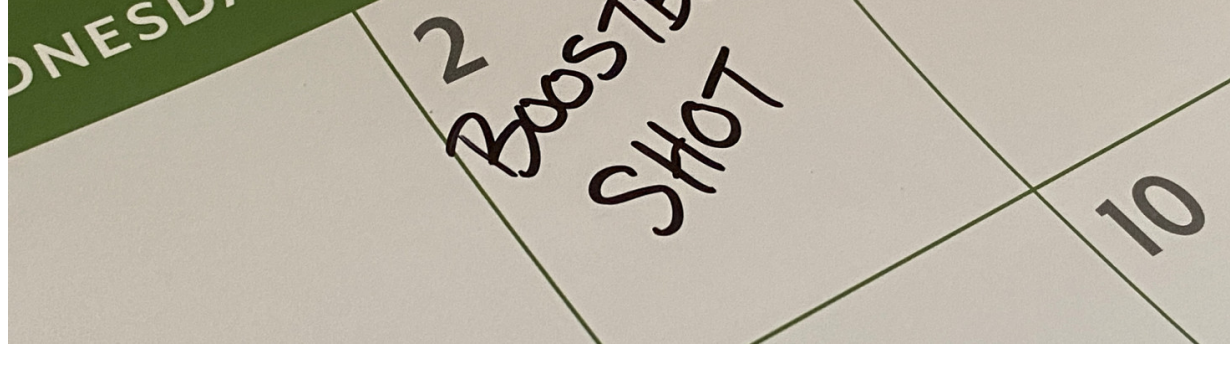
Human Resources Director

COVID-19 Boosters - Have You Had Your Booster?

Getting vaccinated is the first step. However, in order to continue to fight the virus, we need to get the Booster as often as is clinically recommended. Being six months without having a booster can reduce your immunity.

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are offered free for people who are living in the U.S.—even those without health insurance! Take advantage and get your booster shot if eligible.

Please complete the anonymous survey below.



Click this link to complete a short survey about the booster.

forms.office.com

New York Booster Clinic on Monday 12/20 from 9am - 2pm in the Bronx office at 2811 Zulette Ave. If you are interested in having a Booster shot and would like to participate in our Booster Clinic, please let us know. They will have both Pfizer and Moderna. If interested, email Shyanne Gadson - sgadson@cfsny.org. We already have 64 signed up! Email to sign up! Sorry no walk ins.

Successful Booster Clinic in New Jersey



On Thursday December 12th, CFS held a COVID booster clinic in the Hackensack Office. It was a very successful event with approximately 55 individuals and staff that came into the office to get themselves boosted. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of our staff and individuals that made it a priority to keep not only themselves as protected as possible, but their co-workers and caregivers as well. One individual, Karen, expressed how important it was for her to be the booster. She said "you never know where you could get sick, it's very scary and I want to protect myself." She was happy that all of her room mates had also chosen to get the booster. She said,"we need to do what we can not to get sick."

Booster shots are widely available to those who are eligible including our Direct Support Professional workforce. Click links below to schedule a Booster shot in your community. In NYC if you text your zip code to 438829, you can see vaccine locations in your neighborhood and it even asks you if you want a ride!

We want to make sure we are properly counting the numbers of staff who are vaccinated. So if you have been vaccinated make sure to send a copy of your vaccine card to hvacstats@cfsny.org.

As we receive information on additional mandates that will impact our workforce, we will share that information with you. However, in the meantime, join the millions of people and GET VACCINATED.

YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE AND A CHANCE TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD



NY Booster Doses

Appointment Finder

Maximize your protection against COVID-19.

Free booster shots are widely available statewide for eligible New Yorkers.

[covid19vaccine.health...](https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov)



NJ Vaccine Appointment

Finder (Including Boosters)

Find and schedule a vaccine appointment near you.

All individuals aged 12 and older who live, work, or study in New Jersey are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

covid19.nj.gov

We Want to Hear From You!



WINNER OF THE \$100 GIFT CARD



Katherine Fermin

Special thanks to Arnaldo Giraldo for translating the newsletter into Spanish!

To reach out to our newsletter committee with any questions please contact Joanne Cropper jcropper2@cfsny.org, Donna Messina dmessina@cfsny.org or Linda Schellenberg lschellenberg@cfsny.org