

# National Immunization Awareness Month: Hochul encourages New Yorkers to stay up to date on vaccines as school returns, fall nears

Encourages people to talk to their primary care doctor about updated COVID-19 vaccines, take common-sense safety precautions as cases rise

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their pediatrician to discuss vaccines for the upcoming school year

Gov. Kathy Hochul recognized National Immunization Awareness Month with a reminder to parents and guardians to ensure their children are up to date on required vaccinations before heading back to school. The governor and the New York State Department of Health also encouraged New Yorkers to prepare for the updated COVID-19 vaccine tailored to guard against new variants expected to arrive in pharmacies and doctor's offices this fall, especially as the number of reported COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations has increased in recent weeks.

"Immunizations are one of the most powerful tools of modern science, and we have seen their tremendous impact in our fight against the COVID-19 virus in recent years," Hochul said. "As we head into the new school year and into fall when respiratory viruses traditionally spread, it is important that everyone contact their health care providers to prepare and stay up to date on immunizations."

Staying up to date on recommended vaccines – from required immunizations for schools to CDC-recommended vaccines for adults – can prevent spread of disease and protect individuals from serious illness resulting from exposure to disease.

New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "It's about personal protection, personal prevention and personal wellness. We have

the safest and most effective vaccines on the planet. During National Immunization Awareness Month, it's a good time for parents, guardians and pediatricians to take an active role in ensuring school-age children have all required vaccines before heading back to the classroom. And it is a great reminder to all of us the value of vaccines at preventing spread of and serious outcomes from vaccine-preventable disease."

Children attending day care and pre-K through 12th grade in New York state must receive all required doses of vaccines according to the required schedule to attend or remain in school.

Hochul's team said, "Parents should speak with a health care provider about their child's immunization records to catch up on any missing immunizations. Most private insurance plans are required to cover recommended vaccines at no cost. Parents or guardians of children who do not have health insurance or have a plan with out-of-pocket costs that are not affordable can still get vaccinated. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides all recommended vaccines at no cost for children under age 19 who qualify."

"Decades of research shows that vaccines prevent disease, save lives, and are safe and effective."

While the COVID-19 vaccine is not required for school attendance, the governor and the NYSDOH also recommend everyone speak to their health care provider about staying up to date with their COVID-19 vac-

cines as a preventive measure. Though numbers remain low compared to the height of the pandemic, the latest data shows an increase in COVID-19 hospital admissions. The NYSDOH reminds New Yorkers that those who have symptoms should test for COVID-19, and those who test positive should contact their health care provider about possible treatment, which have been shown effective at reducing the chances of serious outcomes, including hospitalization or death.

Hochul's team said, "National Immunization Month is a good time to highlight the importance of other routine vaccinations among people of any age. While it's important for infants and children to get their recommended vaccines on time, immunizations are not just for children. Adults of all ages need immunizations to stay healthy because immunity from childhood vaccines can wear off over time. There are also risks of different diseases for adults, and vaccination is among the best preventive care measures available. Adults can find out what vaccines they need by using the CDC adult vaccine assessment tool."

"Today and every day, the governor and the Department of Health remind New Yorkers that vaccines are safe, effective, and a critical strategy individuals should use to protect themselves and their local communities to keep them safe and healthy. ...

"The NYS Vaccines for Adults program provides vaccines at no cost to eligible adults."

## Town Clerk's Corner: Lewiston news & notes

The 2023-24 New York state hunting licenses are now available for purchase in the town clerk's office at Town Hall. State residents must provide one of the following proofs of residency: a New York driver's license, non-driver's ID, proof of voter registration or a current letter from the Niagara County Board of Elections.

### TOWN CLERK'S CORNER



Donna R. Garfinkel

The Lewiston Town Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, in the Town Hall meeting room. The meeting's agenda is posted on the town website, [www.townoflewiston.us](http://www.townoflewiston.us), on the Friday prior to the meeting.

The town advises water customers that, effective Sept. 1 of each year, any unpaid water bill balance through May 31 is levied to your annual town and county tax bill. All water bills not paid by Sept. 1, 2023, face being levied to your 2024 town and county tax bill. In addition, any unpaid water and sewer charges levied to a tax bill will incur a \$100 levy fee. This fee is intended to recoup town costs in processing the unpaid bill.

For more information, call the town Water Department at 716-754-8213, ext. 235 or 236, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Attention seniors aged 65 and older: New York state has increased the income limit eligibility for the Enhanced Star school tax discount. The 2022 federal adjusted gross income to receive the

discount in 2024 is now \$98,700. If you owned your home prior to 2015, you must contact the town assessor's office, 716-754-8213, ext. 232, and Jamie O'Shea, exemption administrator, prior to March 1, 2024, to inquire if you qualify. If you purchased your home in 2015 or after, you must contact New York state at 518-457-2036 to inquire if you qualify.

With the February passing of Jeanette Collesano, the town's much-loved director of the Lewiston Senior Center, family and friends have established a scholarship in her honor for a Lewiston-Porter High School senior. Please consider a donation to the Jeanette Collesano Scholarship Fund by contacting Carol Jacobs at the senior center: 716-754-2071.

Residents who notice a streetlight is out or flickering are asked to contact the town clerk's office, at 716-754-8213, ext. 256, or online at [www.townoflewiston.us](http://www.townoflewiston.us), under the comment drop-down. Residents will need to provide the pole number, and the closest address and intersection to the pole.

The Dickersonville Cemetery, located on Ridge Road, is owned and maintained by the Town of Lewiston. Plots are available by contacting the town clerk's office. The plot map is available on the Town website, [www.townoflewiston.us](http://www.townoflewiston.us), under the department drop-down "Town Clerk."

Replacing your tattered American flag? Proper disposal of the flag is a very important and respectful thing to do. The town received a receptacle from VFW Downriver Post No. 7487, which is located in the front foyer at Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to dispose of their flags properly.

## Scam tips (cont.)

Continued from Page 4

**Funeral Notification Scam:** Scammers send emails deceptively informing recipients of an upcoming farewell ceremony in remembrance of a friend or loved one, and upon clicking a link provided in the email, victims are sent to a third-party website where malicious software is downloaded so scammers can gain access to the user's information.

**Sweepstakes Scam:** Scammers entice consumers with various prize offers and then ask you to share personal information or pay a fee to enter the sweepstakes.

**Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Imposter Scam:** Phone scammers impersonate IRS agents and demand immediate

payment of overdue taxes from victims via debit card or wire transfer to avoid being arrested.

**Free Grant Scam:** Scammers promise fraudulent grants in print or over the phone, and ask for bank account and routing numbers.

For more information about how you can recognize the most common older adult scams, or for more scam prevention tips, download The Division of Consumer Protection's informative senior anti-fraud education (S.A.F.E.) brochure. If you have parents or older family members, take the time to explain these scams to them.

Here are a few tips to follow if you or someone you know

receives a call or email you believe to be a scam:

✓ **RESIST** the urge to act immediately – no matter how dramatic the story is.

✓ **VERIFY** the caller's identity – ask questions that a stranger couldn't answer. Check with a family member to see if the information is true.

✓ **DO NOT** send cash, gift cards or money transfers. Once the scammer gets the money, it's gone!

✓ **DO NOT** give your personal banking account information by email or over the phone or log into bank accounts as directed by the caller (scammers can steal your information using screen mirroring).

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