

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
May 25, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom**

Minutes

Board Members Present: Meryl Brodsky*, Lindsey Cormack, Rebecca Dangoor, Sahar Husain, Wilma Johnson, Ellen Polivy*, Barbara Rudder, and Lynne Strong-Shinozaki

* Public Member

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Item 1 - Updates from the New York City Health Department on Covid-19 with Introductory Remarks by John T. Pellicone, Chief Medical Officer at Metropolitan Hospital, and Guest Speaker Chelsea Cipriano, Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at DOHMH

Barbara Rudder introduced John T. Pellicone, Chief Medical Officer at Metropolitan Hospital who gave a broad overview and update on the current COVID situation in NYC. Currently in NYC, especially where testing is ongoing with Health + Hospitals, the nasal positivity rate is hovering around 10%. It bounces around between 8% and 11%, which is considerably higher than it was several months ago. He explained that is important to understand the R_0 over R value. It predicts the number of cases to develop from a single exposed person and thus a measure of the infectivity of a virus. He explained that perspective is important. For example, measles has a R -naught value of 12 to 18 which is very high due to the infectiousness of the virus. Influenza in the winter season has an R -naught value of anywhere between 0.9 and 2.1. COVID's R -naught value is about 1.4 to 3.9 and so, it is clearly not as infectious as the measles virus but is more infectious than our typical influenza. A February 2022 CDC report noted that more than half of the United States population has been infected with COVID-19 including 75% of adolescents and children. The proportion of infected individuals who never manifest symptoms is remarkably high at 25 to 40%, which means that those with these diminished virus loads are less likely to transmit disease, but they can still infect other individuals. These infected asymptomatic individuals do mount a highly functional cellular immune response which is why they've been able to remain asymptomatic despite having inhaled the virus. What's important for the population is that the greater our population has exposure to the virus either by vaccine or by natural infection, the broader will be the immunity.

Dr. Pellicone then explained why is highly unlikely we will be able to completely eliminate COVID-19. So, the next question is can we completely eliminate covid due to the fact that 29 species of animals carry the virus, the virus has a long incubation period, that the symptoms of COVID-19 look like the symptoms of other pathogens, and that vaccines we are using are not sterilizing. He does not believe further lockdowns will help eliminate COVID-19 completely due to the examples listed above.

Dr. Pellicone then explained what is different about the current BA2 virus that is affecting New York and much of the country. There is a decoupling of cases and hospitalizations: lots of cases and yet, few hospitalizations. Most who get this variant, do not get seriously ill. Lastly, a large portion of the population already has cellular immunity which helps keep the severity of the disease down. Therefore, despite the rising number of cases, we have really left the emergency phase of the pandemic and are rather entering an endemic phase.

Dr. Pellicone then discussed boosters. 33% of Americans who are 65 and older have completed their initial vaccine but have not received the first booster injection. This number is worrying due to the fact that the population in question accounts for 75% of COVID-19 deaths in the United States. He believes that part of the reason for the low percentage of boosted seniors is due to the fact that government involvement has dropped since the initial vaccine program and instead relies on the individual and their healthcare provider.

Dr. Pellicone continued with the fact that there is some disagreement about all these boosters. For example, in Europe, the current European recommendation is that the second booster should be given to those over the age of 80 instead of the age of 50 that is recommended in the United States. He noted that he is waiting for the final results of the Israeli study. He expects that the results will show a second booster shot does not do any harm, but the real question is whether it does any good and how long that possible protection may last. He also discussed pregnancies in relation to booster shots. He discussed “long COVID” whose formal definition is the persistence of symptoms at least 28 days after diagnosis. He believes we will receive an annual COVID vaccine like we do for influenza. He briefly discussed the controversies and difficulties about that process. He then concluded by aiming to clarify information about the COVID-19 drugs currently available, including PAXLOVID, molnupiravir or LAGEVRIO, evusheld, and COVAXIN.

Chelsea Cipriano then gave a presentation focused on New York City and the online resources available to the public. Her slideshow is attached to the minutes. She focused on vaccination rates, booster rates, and the difference between fully vaccinated and being “up to date.” Being “up to date” means you have the recommended number of doses, including boosters. She noted NYC’s low rates for the population being “up to date.” She highlighted that children are very behind on doses as they are under 50% fully vaccinated. She discussed testing including PCR and home tests. The online resources are as follows:

- NYC COVID alert levels: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-alert-levels.page>
- <https://nyc.gov/covidtest>
- Treatments: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/treatments-available.pdf>
- Self-service Isolation and Quarantine tool: <https://covid19.nychealthandhospitals.org/COVID19help>
- Latest vaccine information: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>
- Latest COVID data: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page>
- Fact sheet on reproductive health and the COVID vaccine: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-reproductive-health-faq.pdf>
- Self-service Isolation and Quarantine tool: <https://covid19.nychealthandhospitals.org/COVID19help>
- CDC Monkeypox: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/>
- <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/cd/monkeypox-faq.pdf>

The meeting then opened for a Q&A session.

Item 2 – Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Item 3 – New Business

There was no New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs



COVID-19 UPDATE

May 25, 2022

want people to feel like they have the resources.



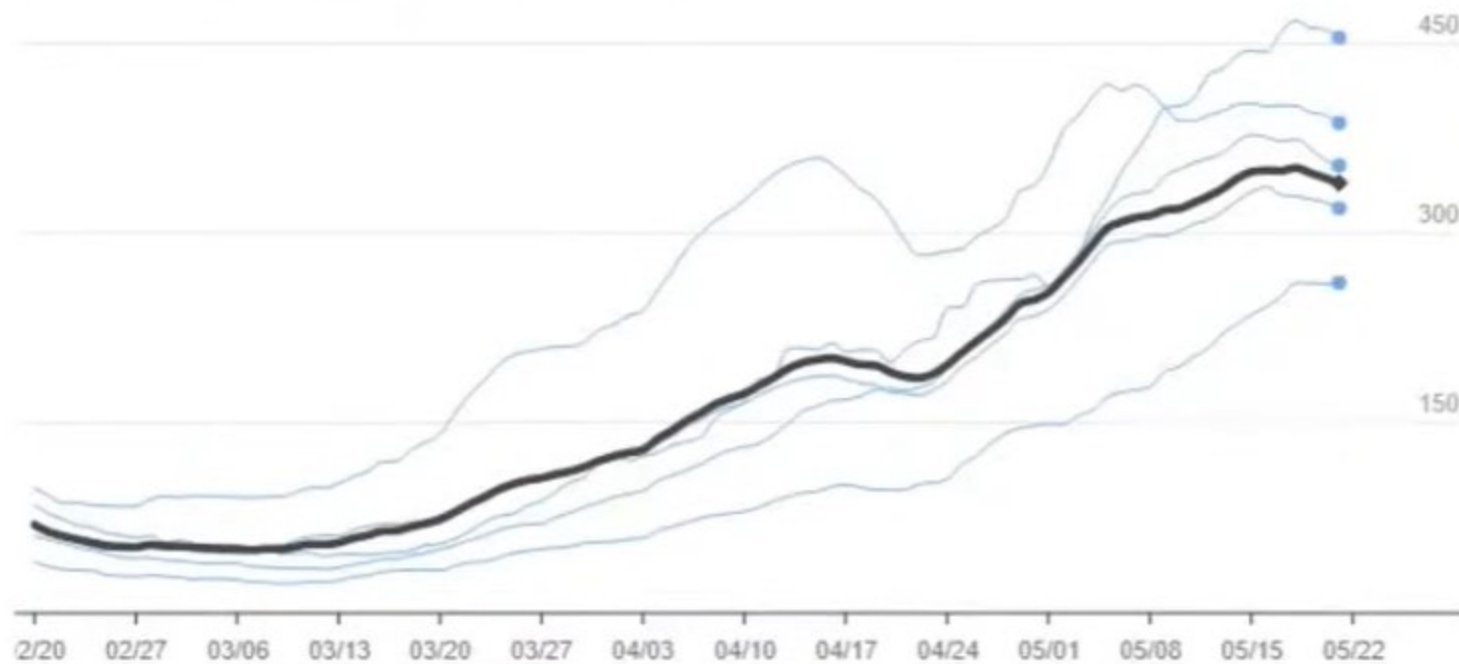
Current Citywide COVID-19 Community Transmission

Chelsea Cipria...

	Citywide	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
Total new cases per 100,000 people in the last 7 days	340.38	261.39	320.44	387.85	354.06	455.33

Citywide and Boroughs

Your Neighborhood



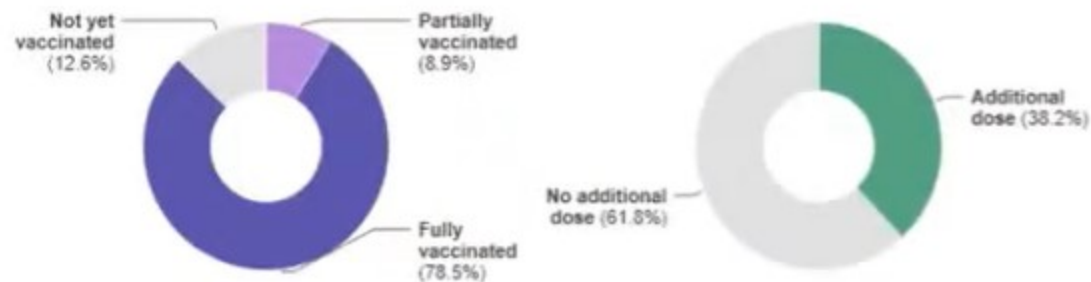
So this is a demonstration of the current
For the latest data, go to nyc.gov/COVIDdata

Vaccine Data - Citywide

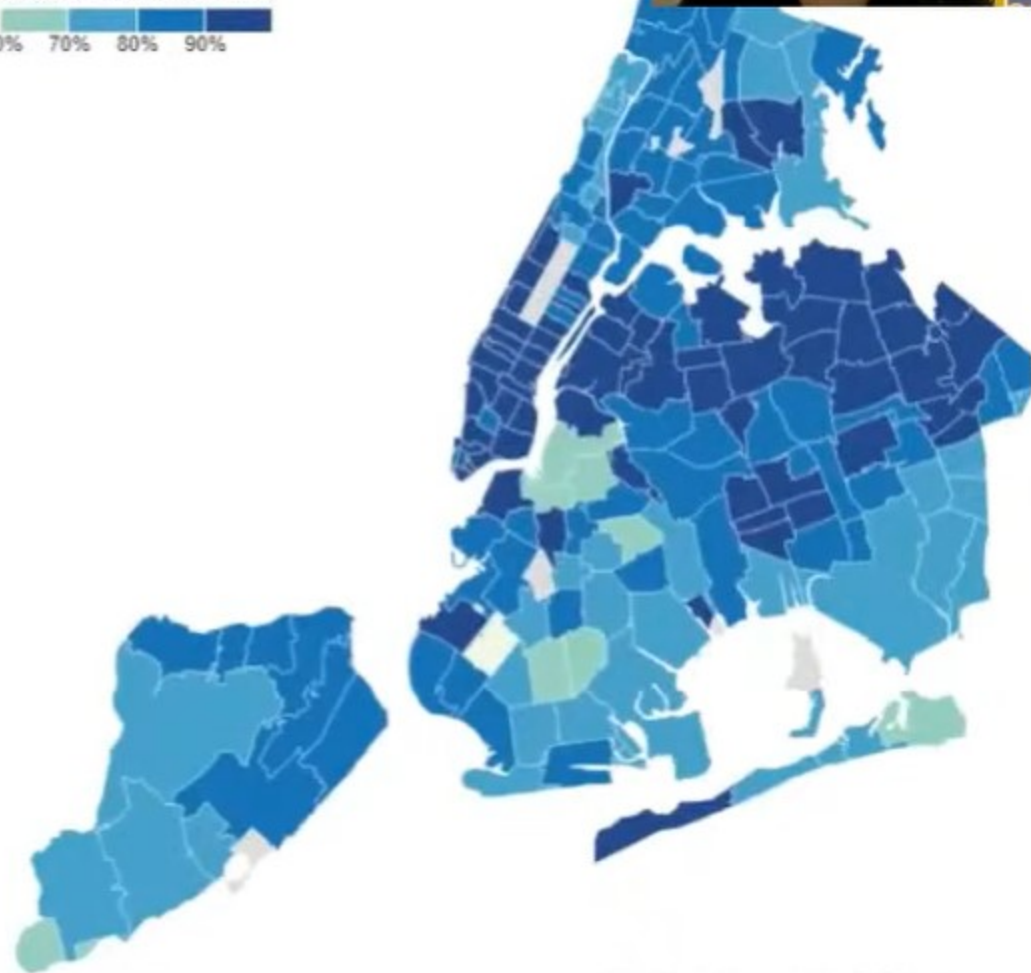
Chelsea Cipria...

Percent of NYC residents vaccinated

Population (All ages)	At least 1 dose	Fully vaccinated	Additional dose
8,336,817	7,283,070 (87.4%)	6,543,952 (78.5%)	3,184,083 (38.2%)



NYC residents with at least 1 dose



increasing over the last couple of weeks next slide.



Vaccine Data – Children and Adults

Adults

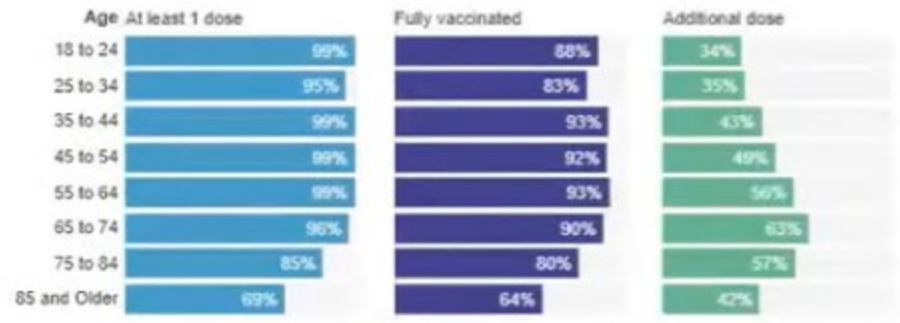
Percent of adults 18 and older vaccinated

Population (18 and older)	At least 1 dose	Fully vaccinated	Additional dose
6,632,695	6,484,525 (97.8%)	5,844,282 (88.1%)	3,058,515 (46.1%)



Adults – fully vaccinated

NYC adults 18 and older vaccinated



Children

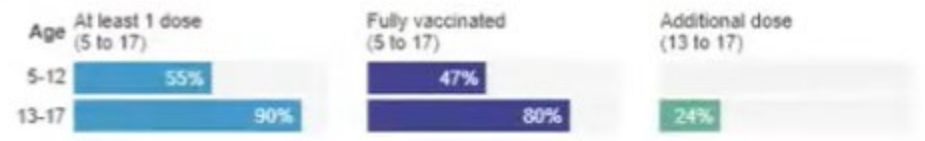
Percent of children 5 to 17 vaccinated

Population (5 to 17)	At least 1 dose (5 to 17)	Fully vaccinated (5 to 17)	Population (13 to 17)	Additional dose (13 to 17)
1,180,404	798,545 (67.7%)	699,670 (59.3%)	432,846	104,604 (24.2%)



Children – fully vaccinated

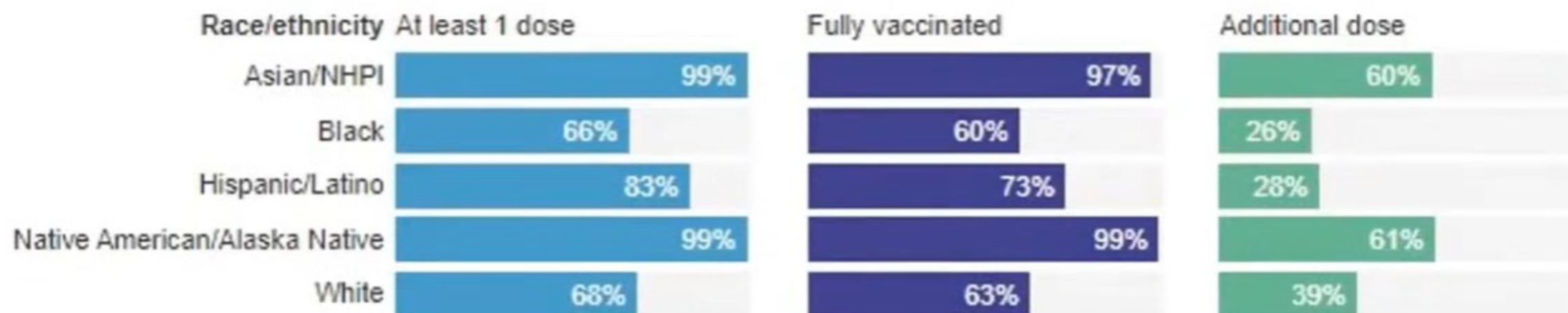
NYC children 5 to 17 vaccinated



And on the next slide we'll be the next I will talk

Vaccine Data – Race and Ethnicity

Chelsea Cipria...



Next slide. This is just an

Alert System

Chelsea Cipria...

- The Health Department released a COVID Alert system to give New Yorkers a roadmap for how to mitigate their own risk today and in the future
- At each level, there is clear guidance for what precautions New Yorkers should take, and what actions you can expect from your City government.
- We are currently at **High Alert** Level
- More information at nyc.gov/covidalert

Understanding COVID-19 Alert Levels in NYC

Alert Level	What This Means*	What New Yorkers Should Do
Very High	There is high community spread of COVID-19, and health care services are overwhelmed by COVID-19 cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines: Get vaccinated and boosted.• Wear a face mask in all indoor public settings and crowded outdoor spaces.• Avoid nonessential activities and crowded spaces.• Maximize physical distance from others in all public settings, including in workplaces.• Get tested if you have symptoms, were exposed, traveled, or interacted with people outside your home.• Stay home as much as possible, especially if sick or exposed.
High	There is high community spread of COVID-19 and substantial pressure on the health care system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines: Get vaccinated and boosted.• Wear a face mask in all indoor public settings and crowded outdoor spaces.• Consider avoiding higher-risk activities (such as crowded indoor gatherings).• Limit gatherings to small numbers.• Get tested if you have symptoms, were exposed, traveled or were at a large event.• Stay home if sick or recently exposed.
Medium	There is medium community spread of COVID-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines: Get vaccinated and boosted.• Wear a face mask in public indoor settings where vaccine status is not known.• Get tested if you have symptoms, were exposed, traveled or were at a large event.• Stay home if sick.• If you are unvaccinated or are at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness, or if working, living or interacting with high-risk individuals, take additional precautions (for example, avoid crowded indoor and outdoor settings).
Low	There is lower community spread of COVID-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines: Get vaccinated and boosted.• Consider wearing a face mask in indoor public settings where vaccine status is not known.• Get tested if you have symptoms, are at high risk based on age or underlying condition, or were recently exposed.• Follow all isolation and quarantine guidance, including wearing a face mask.• Stay home if sick.• Wash your hands.

*Community spread level is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 community levels and indicators. For more information, visit cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. 3.4.22

The alert system. This is relatively new. I wanted to



Who can and should get vaccinated now?

Everyone 5 years old or older should get vaccinated now!

Chelsea Cipria...

- Find vaccine near you at vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or by calling **877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692)**
- Call 212-COVID19 to talk to an expert about COVID-19, including vaccines for your children
- Everyone eligible for a booster dose should get one ASAP
- The vaccines are free to you (if you have insurance, it may be billed but you won't be charged)
- Everyone, regardless of immigration status, can and should get vaccinated
- In home vaccinations are available for ALL New Yorkers 12 and older. As of June 1, in-home vaccinations will be available to people who are 65+ or unable to leave their home. Go to nyc.gov/homevaccine to sign up or call 877-VAX-4NYC

The vaccines are:

- SAFE, EFFECTIVE AND LIFESAVING** and have undergone rigorous testing
- STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**, even if you've already had COVID-19 or have antibodies
- FREE**

For more information about the vaccines go to nyc.gov/covidvaccine

Next slide. This is just



GET TESTED

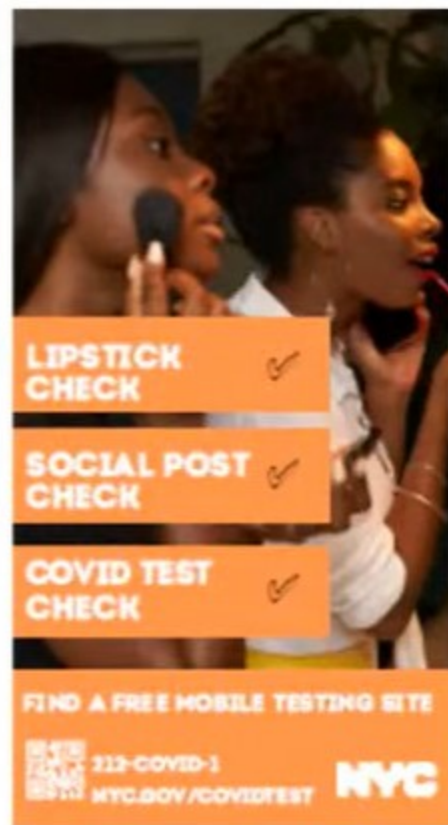
nyc.gov/covidtest

Even if vaccinated, get tested:

- Before you gather
- Before you travel, and before you come back home, and/or
- If you feel sick!



testing.



Chelsea Cipria...

COVID-19 Treatment Options

- Treatment is not a substitute for vaccination. Get vaccinated, get boosted!
- There are two types of treatment available to New Yorkers right now:
 - **Antiviral pills:** There are two antiviral pills currently authorized and available. These are for people aged 12 and older who:
 - Test positive for COVID-19, and
 - Have mild to moderate symptoms for 5 days or less, and
 - Are at high risk for severe illness, [as defined by the CDC](#)
 - **Monoclonal Antibody Treatment:** this treatment is a one-time IV treatment for people aged 12 and older who:
 - Test positive for COVID-19, and
 - Have mild to moderate symptoms for 10 days or less, and
 - Are at high risk for severe illness, [as defined by the CDC](#)
- Treatment works best the sooner you begin so it is important to get tested right away if you have symptoms or were recently exposed.

There are multiple forms of treatment available here

What else can New Yorkers do?



- **Take care of your mental health.**
 - Call 1-888-NYC-WELL, text WELL to 65173.
 - Chat online at nyc.gov/nycwell to speak to a counselor 24/7.
 - NY Project Hope is an emotional support helpline (**844-863-9314**) that provides counseling to help New Yorkers cope during the COVID-19 pandemic. Counselors are available 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Share accurate information:**
 - NYC Health Department vaccine page: nyc.gov/covidvaccine
 - COVID-19 Facts videos: youtube.com/nychealth
- **Get a flu shot!**
 - Go to nyc.gov/flu or nyc.gov/vaccinefinder to find more information and a shot near you.

We really want to reiterate for folks that