



CHOICESM
Health Plans

Provider News

Protecting Patients Living with HIV from COVID-19

People living with HIV may continue to be concerned about COVID-19, as well as their risk of serious illness/side effects and vaccine safety.

Anyone is at risk of contracting COVID-19, even more for those who are immunocompromised or have a weakened immune system. **Those with HIV are at increased risk for COVID-19**, especially those with advanced HIV or who are not receiving treatment.

How can you help patients with HIV better protect themselves from COVID-19?

- **Patients taking HIV medications as prescribed should continue their treatment**, follow their health care provider's advice, and maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- Make sure your patients have **at least a 30-day supply of their HIV medications** and any other supplies needed to manage their HIV
- Make sure your **patients keep their medical appointments** and maintain safety precautions. Offer **telemedicine** or virtual care options if available or when necessary.

- Help your patients **vaccinate against COVID-19**, and ensure all other vaccines, such as seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine, are up to date.
- Stay up to date on current trends and recommendations regarding prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19.

Resources to share with patients

- **Vaccination sites** can be found at vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or by calling 1-877-829-4692. Vaccination sites can be filtered by vaccine brand.
- Refer your patients to the [SelectHealth from VNS Health website](https://selecthealthny.org/covid-19-information-and-resources/) for **additional information and resources** selecthealthny.org/covid-19-information-and-resources/
- **At-home COVID-19 tests** can be ordered online at special.usps.com/testkits, at the pharmacy by showing their SelectHealth ID cards, or by purchasing out of pocket and submitting to SelectHealth for reimbursement. Patients can contact 1-866-469-7774 for assistance with reimbursement.
- The [CDC is also a good site](https://www.cdc.gov) for **general information about COVID-19 and HIV**.

Questions?

Contact VNSNY CHOICE Provider Services

Call toll free: 1-866-783-0222

TTY for the hearing impaired: 711

Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

 Forward this email

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Click here for our Provider Quick Reference Guides

Thank you for being part of the VNSNY CHOICE Provider network!

We want to make this publication useful to you. Please let us know what you think! Write to us at CHOICEProviderNews@vnsny.org.

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