

# “EXPERIENCE”

February 28, 2021

## Schoharie County Office for the Aging 518-295-2001

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**Schoharie County is working to conduct Vaccine Clinics based on guidance and receipt of vaccine from NYS.**

In order to provide information to as many county residents as possible, we have setup a Registration System for those individuals wishing to be notified when clinics will be available, and how they can then schedule an appointment for vaccination. You can do so at:

<https://www2.schohariecounty-ny.gov/PublicWebSiteApp/faces/CovidSignup/entry.xhtml> and provide as much information as you can so that we can ensure you are notified properly of clinics. For those who might have trouble with accessing or filling out our on-line form or who have other questions about our vaccination clinics please call **(518) 295-8390**. This is a line specifically for COVID Vaccination clinics and information. Be aware that call volume may be high at times. This Public Signup for COVID Contacting form is NOT for scheduling an appointment!

Due to the limited amount of vaccine, we CANNOT schedule appointments for you, as that would indicate preference for specific people – and all Schoharie County Residents MUST have an equal opportunity to schedule an appointment.

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Resources for getting the vaccine that we are aware of at this very moment (as you know, information can change minute to minute); Walgreens.com, CVS.com, Hannaford.com. and now PriceChopper.com. Unfortunately, these pharmacies are only taking appointments online – perhaps you have a neighbor, family member or friend that can assist with scheduling appointments? Just as a reminder, we aren't privy as to WHEN and HOW MANY vaccines the pharmacies are getting – so just keep trying! We realize this option doesn't work for everyone in the community and Office for the Aging is working with local pharmacies to remedy this. We're urging the community to take concerns to the Governor and local lawmakers, they need to be aware of what's happening at the ground level. Patience right now is critical as we're all muddling through this together.

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Tax Update: All appointments are filled!! Any calls are now being put on a waiting list, only to be called if someone cancels.

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**Medicare Part B enrollment: There's still time to sign up!**

Most people get Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) when they turn 65. If you didn't sign up for Part B then, now's the time to decide if you want to enroll.

During **Medicare's General Enrollment Period (January 1–March 31)**, you can enroll in Part B and your coverage will start July 1. Deciding to enroll in Part B is an important decision. It depends on the type of coverage you have now. It's also important to think about the Part B late enrollment penalty–this lifetime penalty gets added to your monthly Part B premium, and it goes up the longer you wait to sign up. If you only have Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance), adding Part B can help you get the most out of your Medicare coverage. Part B helps cover:

- Services from doctors and other health care providers
- Outpatient care
- Durable medical equipment (like wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, and other equipment)
- Many preventive services (like screenings, shots or vaccines, and yearly “Wellness” visits)

**Signing up for Part B is easy–apply by March 31st.**

Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.

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NY Connects alert on Medicaid guideline changes happening 4/1/2021: If you have thought about long term care for yourself or a loved one but haven't talked to our NY Connects staff, haven't been screened for Medicaid, or are waiting to apply for Medicaid now is the time to give us a call! As of April 1, there will be new guidelines that may make it more difficult to qualify for Medicaid and long-term care. Call and speak to our New York Connects Staff, at 518-295-2001 to get more information and get your application in before these changes go into effect.

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Office for the Aging Life Chat March 17th at 2:00 p.m. Join Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Nancy Ackerbauer as she present ideas for preparing healthy meals for one or two people. Demonstration and recipes included. More details to follow.