

Mount Sinai Health System to Require COVID-19 Vaccination

August 12, 2021, Thursday

Over the past weeks and months, we have worked hard to encourage every member of our Mount Sinai family to get vaccinated against COVID-19, to protect you, your patients, your coworkers, your families, and your communities. We are grateful for those of you who got the vaccine.

Given the increased incidence and the rapid spread of the Delta variant, **we will be making COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for all faculty and staff**, with limited exceptions for religious and medical reasons, and excluding employees who work fully remotely and have a current Remote Work Agreement in place. This will apply to employees at all Mount Sinai locations, including hospital, ambulatory, academic, corporate, and other sites.

All employees covered by this mandate will need to get their first shot by Monday, September 13. Those who do not get the shot and do not receive a medical or religious exemption will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. We will provide more details on the timeline and process shortly.

Mount Sinai Health System has always firmly believed that we are different than other large New York metropolitan region employers. As a hospital, a school, and a health care provider, we have responsibilities not only to each other, but to the communities we serve. And the right thing to do for our communities—and our Mount Sinai family—is to make sure we are all vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccines are simply the best protection we have against this virus, and our patients deserve the best.

Please note that we will continue to implement the vaccine-or-testing protocol that we first announced in June. Starting in September, faculty and staff who receive a medical or religious exemption from the vaccine mandate must undergo this weekly testing.

Again, to the large majority of you who are already vaccinated—whether you were first in line in December or just got your first shot last week—**thank you**. To those of you who have not been vaccinated, we want you to understand why we are announcing this so early: to respectfully allow you more time to learn, look at the data, and become comfortable with getting vaccinated. Also, we now anticipate the Food and Drug Administration will grant full approval to at least one of the COVID-19 vaccines very soon. There is a lot of information on our [employee](#) and [community](#) vaccine websites. To make a vaccine appointment at Mount Sinai, please [click here](#), or check the [New York State](#), [New York City](#), [New Jersey](#), or [Connecticut](#) websites for options.

We are committed to ending this pandemic and keeping our Mount Sinai family and the communities we serve safe. We look forward to the day when this pandemic is really behind us. And we believe that, together in service, our actions will help to make that possible.

Kenneth L. Davis, MD

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