

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

January 29, 2021, Friday

We are now in a new phase of the vaccination effort: one that focuses increasingly on second doses. In the last week, we have nearly doubled the number of employees and affiliated providers who have received both doses of vaccine, and begun ramping up to give second doses to the patients who began coming to us a month ago for their first doses.

This is yet another milestone in this critical effort to beat back COVID-19. While some reports have suggested that even one dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines can yield some protection against COVID-19, there is no question that you need both doses to get the full effect. We are committed to ensuring that everyone we serve gets both.

Providing the second doses does add a layer of complexity to our pod operations, but we are pleased to report that things have been running smoothly across the system for both employee and patient vaccinations. Thank you to everyone who helped with this.

We want to stress a few points related to second doses:

- We will have enough vaccine to give second doses to everyone who got their first dose from us. The state and city are shipping us second doses based on the first doses we gave out three to four weeks ago, and these shipments are unaffected by fluctuations in the supply of first doses.
- Everyone—both employees and patients—must get their second dose at the same location they got their first. This is a New York State Department of Health requirement and is necessary to ensure that the right quantities of doses are available at each location.
- If someone got their first dose at a pop-up location that is no longer operating, there is information [on our website](#) about how they can schedule a second dose.

Vaccination Still Available to Employees

While our second-dose vaccination efforts are growing, please know that we are continuing to offer first doses as well. Almost 30,000 members of our Mount Sinai family, a large majority of those who are eligible, have now received at least one dose of vaccine, and we are ready to welcome the rest of you—all Mount Sinai staff who work onsite; patient-facing employees of voluntary/affiliate practices, and employees 65 and over who work remotely—whenever you are ready to get vaccinated. You can schedule an appointment [here](#), and read more about vaccine questions and concerns [here](#).

The state has assured us that we will always have enough vaccine for our eligible staff, even though the supply for patients continues to fluctuate. While patients scheduled on Monday and Tuesday are being rescheduled for later in the week, if you are an employee and are scheduled for vaccination on Monday or Tuesday, your appointment will proceed as scheduled. And we expect that we will be able to resume patient vaccinations and keep to a regular schedule starting later in the week.

We Want to Show Our Appreciation

We have told you many times how much we appreciate the extraordinary effort everyone has been putting in to treat our COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients while simultaneously running this complex and ever-changing vaccination effort. Now, as Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, said [in a broadcast sent out earlier this week](#), it is time to show you.

With the vaccination campaign well underway and COVID-19 caseloads possibly beginning to come down from their recent peak, this is an especially good time for our front-line staff to take a moment while we appreciate your hard work. Details will follow: watch your email and Mount Sinai social media channels next week, and beyond.

Nothing can truly make up for the stress, long hours, uncertainty, and fear that so many of us have been feeling during this second wave of the pandemic. We—the two of us, all of our colleagues in leadership, and the communities that surround us—are forever indebted to you for your strength and resilience in pushing through these obstacles to provide such outstanding care to everyone who needs our care. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

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