

## Health System News

June 23, 2021

### COVID-19 Health System Updates, June 23

I am so happy to see so many of you with vaccination stickers on your ID badges this week. I hope you're finding your commute to work smoother now that you don't have to fill out the screening attestation every day.

This change is one of several we've made to make life easier for those of you who are vaccinated and to recognize that you are now much, much less likely to contract COVID-19 or to spread it to others. We're looking at additional ways to encourage people to be vaccinated and I hope to be able to announce them soon.

I know that not everyone has been able to get their sticker yet. If you're fully vaccinated, you can [register online](#) and get your sticker from your manager, and starting Monday, June 28, those of you who prefer to show your proof of vaccination in person will be able to [make an appointment](#) at Employee Health Services (EHS) and get your sticker there.

As Dr. Davis and Dr. Charney announced on Monday, we will be requiring all new hires to be vaccinated against COVID-19 beginning next Thursday, July 1. This includes temporary and per-diem employees. New hires who are not yet vaccinated must receive their first shot before starting, and complete the series in a timely manner. This process—including any requests for medical or religious exemptions—will be managed by EHS as part of the onboarding process. If you or your new hire has any questions, please contact EHS or your onboarding specialist.

As of this morning, we had 17 COVID-19-positive inpatients across the system, three of whom were in critical care. The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates as of yesterday were 0.3 percent for New York City and the mid-Hudson region and 0.4 percent for Long Island.

I want to leave you this week with a [story from the \*Daily News\*](#). It's the story of a New York City police officer who decided not to get vaccinated against COVID-19 because of fears about what it might do to her unborn child. Then she got COVID-19 and nearly died. Care teams at The Mount Sinai Hospital saved her life, and her baby's. Now she wishes she had gotten the shot—and is urging others who are pregnant to do so.

This is powerful testimony about a simple fact: COVID-19 is far more dangerous than any of the vaccines are. COVID-19 has killed more than 600,000 people here in the United States, and it can kill you. And if it doesn't kill you, it can leave you with serious and potentially lifelong breathing and other difficulties. The vaccines are the best way to protect yourself, and your patients, coworkers, friends, and family. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, please [sign up](#) for an appointment today.

I thank you. Your patients thank you. And everyone who wears the Mount Sinai badge thanks you for helping to keep all of us safe.