

# COVID-19 Health System Updates

September 15, 2021, Wednesday

The response to the vaccine mandate deadline on Monday has been just outstanding. My colleagues and I are all so grateful for the cooperation so many of you have shown in getting vaccinated and protected against COVID-19. I would also like to thank all those who have been working in the vaccine pods to help ensure our colleagues get vaccinated.

In the 12 days leading up to the deadline, more than 5,000 of you reported your vaccine status to Employee Health Services (EHS). Some of you were newly vaccinated. Others had been vaccinated for months but were only now reporting it. In both cases, thank you for doing your part.

The newly vaccinated group includes thousands who showed up at our vaccine pods. Among them, many of you had to overcome fears and misinformation. It's not easy, I know. But you did it. And I am so proud of you—and so glad you'll continue to be part of our Mount Sinai family.

For those who did not report being vaccinated by the deadline on Monday, we are starting the process to terminate your jobs. But you can stop that process by getting vaccinated and [reporting it to EHS](#). If you report, and EHS validates, your vaccination this week, you're good to go. If you haven't reported your vaccination by midnight on the morning of Monday, September 20, you will be suspended without pay and should not report to work. But even after you've been suspended, you can report your vaccination and we will welcome you back to work as soon as possible after EHS validates it.

If you still have not been vaccinated by Monday, September 27, you will be terminated at 5 pm on that day. But we really, really don't want to do that. We want you to get vaccinated, not fired, and will give you every chance we can to do so. But on the 27th, we will have no choice, because the state mandate will be in effect.

For those who still have questions about the vaccines, we announced yesterday that we'll be holding several informational sessions with leaders of our Infection Prevention

team. The dates and times of the remaining sessions are below. You're welcome to join whether you have already been vaccinated or not.

As of this morning, we had 102 COVID-19-positive inpatients across the system, 24 of whom were in critical care. The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates were 2.2 percent for New York City, 4.2 percent for Long Island, and 3.6 percent for the mid-Hudson region. These numbers are showing continued improvement this week, for which we are grateful.

Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart, for all you have been doing for our patients, our community, and our Mount Sinai family. It feels sometimes as if the crises are never-ending. But with vaccinations increasing and cases declining, there really is light at the end of the tunnel. All pandemics end, and this one will too. And I want all of you to be here with me when it does.

### **Vaccine Information Sessions:**

- Wednesday, September 15, 7 pm-7:30 pm
- Thursday, September 16, noon-12:30 pm
- Tuesday, September 21, 7 pm-7:30 pm
- Wednesday, September 22, noon-12:30 pm

The sessions will be live-streamed via Zoom:

- [Join via Zoom](#)
- Zoom ID: 882 6492 5792 | Passcode: 183379
- Call-in: (929) 436 2866 or (301) 715 8592

As phone lines may overload, we recommend that everyone use the link to join the virtual session. You can join on your PC or through the Zoom app on your mobile device. You will be able to submit your questions anonymously once you join

**Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA**  
Senior Vice President  
Chief Medical Officer  
Mount Sinai Health System