

Vaccination Deadline Next Week

February 9, 2021, Tuesday

On Friday, Governor Cuomo announced a change in strategy for COVID-19 vaccination that has important effects for us here at Mount Sinai, and at all the state's other hospitals and health systems.

As of Monday, February 15, the governor says, vaccine doses that were set aside for hospitals to vaccinate their staff will be reallocated to [patients with comorbidities](#)—conditions like cancer, diabetes, obesity, and heart disease that put them at increased risk for severe disease if they get COVID-19. Vaccinations for this group will be coordinated through local health departments and it is not clear whether Mount Sinai or other hospitals will play a role in administering them to our patients.

What this means for our faculty, staff, trainees, students, and affiliated providers is that **if you are eligible for COVID-19 vaccine and have not yet received your first dose, you should schedule it this week if at all possible**. The governor said that some vaccine would remain available for hospital staff after the 15th, but we do not know how easy it will be to obtain. The supply for health care employees will be combined with that for others who are eligible from other categories.

This announcement only affects first doses, as second doses are already set aside; everyone who received a first dose of vaccine from us will be able to get their second dose as well in the same location they received their first dose.

As a reminder, the health care eligible individuals include all faculty, staff, trainees, and students who work or study onsite at any of our facilities, as well as all voluntary physicians and patient-facing staff members at voluntary practices. Employees working remotely who are 65 or over are also eligible. We anticipate that remote employees under 65 with comorbidities as defined by the state will be eligible starting the 15th but are awaiting more guidance on the details.

If you are eligible to be vaccinated and have not yet scheduled your first dose, you can do so [here](#). This link is only for employees and cannot be used for your families, friends, or patients. Please try to schedule your appointment before Monday if possible. If you still have questions or concerns about vaccination, [this page](#) may be able to help.

If you are a manager or supervisor who has employees who do not regularly use email, please post the attached poster in a break room, on a bulletin board, or somewhere else where they will see it. You should also feel free to distribute it in huddles.

On a separate note, we will be adding a question about vaccine status to the daily [attestation form](#) that everyone working onsite is required to fill out. This question is optional and you will not be barred from working onsite if you decline to answer. We are simply trying to collect more data about vaccination status and plans among our staff. If you work remotely, you can fill out the survey at [this link](#) without completing the attestation.

To the more than 31,000 members of our Mount Sinai family who have already received at least one dose of vaccine, thank you. You are doing your part to help bring an end to this terrible pandemic. If you are not yet among them, now is the time to join.

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