

Update on COVID-19 Vaccination

December 30, 2020, Wednesday

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the process of administering COVID-19 vaccine at Mount Sinai: We are pleased to say that it is well underway. Our teams are vaccinating about 1,000 front-line members of our Mount Sinai family each day.

At this time, a question looms for many of us: When can I get a COVID-19 vaccine? We know that our patients are asking; your friends and family are asking; and you are asking, as well.

You should know that the answer isn't simple, and it is based on orders from the New York State Department of Health that are constantly evolving. Our Vaccine Planning team is deftly responding to these orders, and distributing the vaccine supplies that come to us in periodic shipments. They are administered as quickly as possible to the staff who are eligible, based on the New York State guidelines. Needless to say, not everyone who would like to receive vaccine can get it at this time.

In detailed guidelines from New York State, we were directed to offer vaccine to our staff members at highest risk of exposure due to their work. This includes staff in areas such as Emergency Departments, Intensive Care Units, and Medical Units with high numbers of COVID-19-positive patients. As the DOH guidance evolved over the past two weeks to expand eligibility to other front-line staff, we have expanded vaccination to additional departments and zones within our hospitals, for example to our other medical and surgical units and the like.

Now, thanks to updated orders from the DOH, we are moving to another phase of eligibility. We are pleased to be permitted to offer vaccination to our patient-facing ambulatory staff, starting Monday, January 4. This roll-out of vaccination, which will proceed over the next few weeks as supplies permit, includes our nurses and providers, ambulatory-based employed and voluntary physicians, registrars, and other support staff who are on site at the practices and have patient-facing roles or who have potential exposure to patients or infectious materials.

All members of our patient-facing community will be receiving an email with an invitation to schedule an appointment. We randomize the list of eligible staff in each phase and release these invitations in waves. So please don't be surprised if you don't receive the email on the same day as the person who is next to you. We are committed to reaching everyone.

We are not yet permitted to vaccinate every member of our Mount Sinai community working in non-patient-facing roles. We recognize how critical all of you are to our collective missions across our vast clinical and school enterprises. We are awaiting additional DOH guidance and will provide you with more information as we receive it.

We have heard, and we understand, the concerns and questions regarding vaccination for patients. There are no definite answers yet. But we expect to be able to offer vaccine more widely to the public in the near future. The DOH will be issuing instructions on when we can begin that process—and also the priority order for that process. We will continue to update you on the progress and the evolving process of distributing the vaccines to our communities. In the meantime, please see the [Vaccine Information for Employees](#) site for frequently asked questions and the latest updates.

As always, we are proud of the work that you do every day, and deeply thankful. Please stay safe, and have a wonderful New Year.

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