

## COVID-19 Vaccination Update

March 19, 2021, Friday

Before we give you the weekly vaccination update, we want to express yet again our solidarity with, and support of, our Asian and Asian American family, friends, colleagues, patients, and community members. Mount Sinai stands unequivocally with you, and with all members of our community who experience marginalization and bias. Racism, bigotry, hatred, and violence have no place, ever, in our society. We are saddened that we have to keep saying this, but we will say it as often as we need to.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have established what appears to be a steady and reliable supply of vaccines, and we are making good progress in offering this protection against COVID-19 to our community. We have been averaging more than 7,000 first doses each week to patients and members of the public as well as health care workers. As we contact eligible patients, we are increasingly finding that some have already been vaccinated elsewhere. We view this as a good sign. It indicates that vaccines are becoming more generally available across the region. We are still able to find enough patients and community members to fill our own vaccination schedules, however.

As Dr. LoPachin announced on Wednesday, we are now able to offer vaccination to remote-working employees who are eligible under the New York State vaccination guidelines: those who live in the state and who are 60 or over or have one of the [medical conditions](#) listed by the state. The link to put yourself on the waiting list is [here](#). So far, the wait has not been long.

We have received increasing amounts of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, which as you know requires only one dose to be effective. We have been giving this vaccine to homebound patients through the Mount Sinai Visiting Doctors program, and to patients at Mount Sinai South Nassau who are being discharged. This program has been working well so far and we hope to be able to expand it when the vaccine supply permits. For now, the state has limited use of this vaccine to homebound and discharged patients, so we are unable to offer it more broadly.

The number of COVID-19 patients we have been seeing remains quite variable, but we have now been below 400 inpatients for three straight days, for the first time since December. That is an encouraging sign. Further motion in that direction will allow us to wind down our surge units, give those of you who have been caring for these patients a break, and after that, restart some of the services that were suspended during this surge.

A year ago, *The New York Times* profiled a number of health care workers on the front lines of COVID-19, including David Van De Carr, a respiratory therapist at Mount Sinai Morningside. This weekend, they caught up with Mr. Van De Carr [for an update](#).

We know that for many of you, events in the wider world have added stress to what is already the very difficult job of caring for and vaccinating our patients. It can be ever harder to find the strength to keep going. We are so very grateful to you for finding that strength and continuing. Please know that nothing you have done and are doing has been in vain. You have made an enormous difference in the lives of many tens of thousands of patients whom we have treated or vaccinated for COVID-19. By those efforts, you are bringing us ever closer to the end of this terrible ordeal. And we promise: it will end.

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