

COVID-19 Health System Updates

September 1, 2021, Wednesday

Today is the first day of September. It was a really busy summer for most of us, but I hope you were able to take some time off or will be soon.

We are now working our way through the New York State COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers. In case you missed previous announcements:

- All Mount Sinai faculty and staff must have received at least their first shot of a COVID-19 vaccine, [and must have reported it to Employee Health Services \(EHS\)](#), by Monday, September 13. **You must report your vaccination using this link, even if you were vaccinated at Mount Sinai and even if you have received only one dose so far.**
- The mandate applies to all employees, including those who work at 42nd Street or other non-patient-care locations, and those who work fully remotely.
- Employees who are on FMLA or other approved leave status are still covered by the state mandate and must be vaccinated by Monday, September 27.
- The state is not allowing any religious exemptions, and if you applied for one, you must be vaccinated and report your status by September 13.
- If you applied for a medical exemption, we will contact you in the next few days to let you know whether it was granted. But please know that in most cases, if you have another medical condition, you are at greater risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19, and vaccination is therefore the safer choice. Vaccination is also the overwhelmingly safer choice for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, as Dr. Brodman and I [outlined yesterday](#).

We know there are many employees who are vaccinated but have not reported their status to EHS. If you are a manager or supervisor, please report your own vaccination if you haven't yet, and then speak one on one with everyone who reports to you to make sure they hear the message too:

If you have not reported your vaccination to EHS by September 13, you will be in immediate jeopardy of losing your job. If you lose your job because you didn't comply with the mandate, you will not be able to collect unemployment. And because this is a statewide mandate, you will be unable to work in health care anywhere else in New York State unless you are vaccinated.

I don't want to lose any of you. You're all too important to our Health System, our city and region, and each other.

As of this morning, we had 136 COVID-19-positive inpatients across the system, 33 of whom were in critical care. The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates as of yesterday were 2.5 percent for New York City, 4.4 percent for Long Island, and 3.7 percent for the mid-Hudson region.

Parking Permits Extended Again

Those parking permits that the New York City Department of Transportation issued last year to city health care workers have been extended yet again. They are now valid until Friday, December 31. As with the previous extensions, this applies only to permits initially issued in March 2020. No new permits are being issued.

Town Hall Video

Last week, Dr. Reich, Dr. Charney, and Dr. Patel led a Town Hall meeting at The Mount Sinai Hospital about COVID-19. The video is now online [here](#), and I strongly recommend watching it if you weren't there. It will answer a lot of the questions you may still have about the latest COVID-19 developments as well as about vaccines.

I wish each of you a good Labor Day, and I hope you get some time to spend with your loved ones.

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