

COVID-19 Health System Updates

September 8, 2021, Wednesday

I hope you all had a good Labor Day weekend, and to all who celebrate, I wish you Shanah Tovah—a good year—and a happy and healthy 5782.

As I'm sure you all know, New York State has mandated COVID-19 vaccination for all health care workers as a condition of continued employment. The vaccine mandate for all Mount Sinai faculty and staff takes effect this coming Monday, September 13. Please make sure that you have [uploaded your vaccination proof](#) to Employee Health Services (EHS), and, if you are a manager or supervisor, that you've had one-on-one conversations with everyone on your team who has not yet done so.

As Drs. Davis and Charney explained last week, we will begin the termination process next week for anyone who has not reported their vaccination status to EHS by 5 pm Monday. Our sincere hope is that we don't lose a single member of our Mount Sinai family because of lack of vaccination. Now more than ever, vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and the patients you are here to serve against COVID-19. Please join the vast majority of Mount Sinai faculty and staff who have already been vaccinated. Our pods are accepting walk-ins, or you can make an appointment [here](#).

And if you need any further encouragement to get vaccinated, please check out the winners of our recent COVID-19 vaccine video challenge. Thank you to all who participated, and congratulations to the teams that made the three winning videos: "Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine" from the NYEE Mount Sinai Pathology Department; "COVID-19 Vaccine: Did You Know?" from the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance; and "A Day in the Life of a Vaccinated Person" from The Mount Sinai Hospital, Ambulatory Care. You can view them [here](#).

As of this morning, we had 139 COVID-19-positive inpatients across the system, 36 of whom were in critical care. The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates as of yesterday were 2.3 percent for New York City, 4.3 percent for Long Island, and 3.6 percent for the mid-Hudson region.

It is too soon to say that we have hit the peak of the latest surge, but these numbers do appear to have plateaued in the last week, and that is a hopeful sign. Let's all now redouble our commitment to the steps we know will slow transmission: masking and social distancing when necessary, but above all, getting as many people vaccinated as possible. If each of us does our part, we will help make sure this progress continues and this pandemic comes closer to ending. I truly believe that. And I am truly proud to wear the Mount Sinai badge alongside each of you as we do it.

Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA

Senior Vice President

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