COVID-19 Employee Vaccination FAQs

Will taking a vaccine give me COVID-19? No. It is NOT possible to get COVID-19 from the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or any of the other vaccines in advanced clinical trials.

How will I know when I can get vaccinated? We will let you know when it is your turn to get vaccinated. Initially, we will not be able to vaccinate everyone, but over time our goal is to offer vaccine to all Mount Sinai employees.

Is vaccination mandatory for Mount Sinai employees? We strongly encourage all Mount Sinai Health System faculty, staff, trainees, and students to be vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. However, at this time, it is not mandatory. That may change as the pandemic progresses—and as we get guidance from federal, state and city health agencies—but for now, COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory.

Are you offering vaccine to voluntary physicians affiliated with Mount Sinai? Yes. Voluntary physicians will be included at the appropriate time based on state prioritization guidelines.

Will my work assignment depend on whether I get vaccinated? Vaccination status will not affect your work assignment. We did not change any work assignments based on COVID-19 antibody status and will not do so based on whether or not you are vaccinated.

How will my work be covered as you schedule vaccinations on my unit? When you get vaccinated, we will cover for you on your unit for the time that the vaccination appointment takes. We will be scheduling vaccinations in a staggered manner to make sure that all units have appropriate coverage during this time.

What should I do if I don’t feel well after vaccination? It is common to have side effects after a vaccination. They mean your immune system is working and making antibodies as it’s supposed to. Most of the side effects reported with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mild and go away quickly, especially with over-the-counter pain medicines.

If you experience side effects that are strong enough to interfere with work, please take a PTO day.

Once more than one COVID-19 vaccine is approved, will we be able to choose which one we take? We encourage you to take a vaccine if you are offered it, and not wait for another vaccine to become available.

What support will the hospital system provide should anyone have a significant adverse event as a result of vaccination? As with any vaccine, any unexpected or adverse events will be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Both the NYSDOH and the Mount Sinai Health System have systems in place to support the health of our employees.

Will there be an MD on site where vaccines are administered? Will there be medicines for anaphylaxis or other severe reactions nearby? The staff at the vaccination site will be prepared to attend to any emergency, including a rare allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.

Once I’ve been vaccinated, do I stay behind for a brief monitoring for any immediate reaction? Yes. After being vaccinated, you will be asked to stay for a short period of time so that we can monitor you for any reactions to the vaccine.

If you have more questions about vaccination, please visit the MSHS Vaccine Information for Employees site.