

COVID-19 Vaccination Update, January 8

Before we give you the weekly update on COVID-19 vaccination, we want to say a few words about events in Washington this week.

What happened at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 6, was utterly reprehensible and un-American. No matter what your political beliefs, no matter who you supported in the election, violence is never acceptable, deep-rooted racism must be expunged from society, and an attempt to interfere with the peaceful transition of power is especially repugnant. The mob we saw Wednesday does not represent our country. Our democracy may seem fragile now, and these events are a good reminder that we constantly have to fight to protect it—but it is strengthened in moments big and small: from the speed at which Congress returned to work, to the ongoing civil discourse we have with each other every day, to our fervent shared belief in watching those images unfold that we will not let that moment define us as a nation. We are stronger together and with that, we know brighter days are ahead.

The events of Wednesday afternoon overshadowed an extremely significant development earlier in the day, when the Georgia runoffs put Democrats in position to control the Senate. This means that Senator Chuck Schumer is poised to become Majority Leader. Not only is he the first New Yorker ever to hold that position, he is also the Senate's strongest champion of the health care community and particularly of academic health systems like ours. We look forward to continuing to work with him to improve and protect the health care of New Yorkers.

That is one reason to end the week on a hopeful note. Another is the remarkable progress that we are making in vaccinating our faculty, staff, trainees, and students. We vaccinated at least 3,000 people yesterday, the

best day yet, and we are planning to ramp that up even further in the next few days, including over the weekend.

As of now, in accordance with New York State Department of Health (DOH) guidelines, we are offering vaccination to all Mount Sinai employees who are required to be onsite in all facilities, including those expected to assist with our COVID-19 surge response. Employees working remotely are not yet eligible to be offered vaccine, according to the DOH, but we will let you know as soon as that changes. If you have questions about whether you are eligible, please email COVIDQuestions@mountsinai.org.

We continue to welcome individuals who work in patient-facing roles in federally qualified health centers, private medical practices, ambulatory surgical centers, and ambulatory endoscopy centers. This includes clinical employees and those in nonclinical roles who have patient contact. At some of our sites, we have been receiving vaccine earmarked by the DOH for community health workers who are not affiliated with Mount Sinai, and those vaccinations are occurring at the same time as we vaccinate our own staff.

We are also making plans to begin offering vaccine to high-risk groups of patients once the DOH permits us to include that group.

If you are eligible to be offered vaccine, you should have received an email with instructions about how to schedule an appointment. The email was sent from the address donotreply@mountsinai.org and the subject was "SCHEDULE YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION APPOINTMENT." If you did not receive that email, and have not been notified of your eligibility or given scheduling instructions in other ways, and you believe you're eligible for vaccine, please speak with your manager or clinical chief. Appointments can be scheduled at our hospitals, and we have been setting up temporary vaccination pods at many of our larger ambulatory sites as well. Most of our vaccination pods are also accepting walk-ins if your name is on the eligible list. Pods are located at all of our hospitals except NYEE, as the NYEE staff and doctors are being vaccinated at MSBI; hours vary by site and by day.

This is a challenging but exciting time for Mount Sinai. We have been layering an ever-growing vaccination operation on top of what has been the most significant COVID-19 patient load since the spring. We are tremendously impressed by the effort, the quality, and the team spirit each of you have been displaying. Mount Sinai has faced many challenges in the centuries we have been caring for our community. We have met all of them admirably, and this one is no exception. Thank you to every member of the Mount Sinai family for all you have done, are doing, and will do. 2021 will be a better year because of your efforts.

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