

COVID-19 Health System Updates

December 14, 2020

Prioritization for COVID-19 Vaccine

We are writing to follow up on the broadcast [email](#) earlier today from Drs. Davis and Charney about the rollout of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) has provided detailed guidance that the highest-risk health care workers must be offered the vaccine first. Highest-risk health workers include all individuals—both clinical and non-clinical support staff—with close, prolonged, and repeated exposure to COVID-19 or at higher risk of exposure due to prolonged close contact with patients of unknown COVID-19 status.

The initial groups include those assigned to and regularly working in the Emergency Department, intensive care units where there are significant numbers of COVID-19 patients, and dedicated medical COVID-19 units. Within these zones, faculty, staff, trainees, and students will be offered vaccination in a staggered fashion to ensure unit/department coverage. If you are offered vaccination, you cannot give your spot to another person. If you decline, another appropriate staff member will be vaccinated.

In collaboration with DOH, we are planning for subsequent groups to be offered vaccination. We will eventually be able to offer vaccine to all Mount Sinai Hospital and Icahn School of Medicine faculty, staff, students, and trainees. We respectfully ask for your patience during that process.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your manager or supervisor. You may also find helpful answers on our COVID-19 information sites for the [public](#) and for [employees](#).

David L. Reich, MD
President and Chief Operating Officer
The Mount Sinai Hospital

Dennis S. Charney, MD
Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
President for Academic Affairs
Mount Sinai Health System

