

COVID-19 Health System Updates

December 21, 2020, Monday

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates and Upcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall

We continue to administer COVID-19 vaccine according to New York State Department of Health guidelines. The initial group included those assigned to and regularly working in the Emergency Department, and intensive care units (ICUs) and patient floors dedicated to COVID-19 care. That group was labeled as our “1A1” group.

This weekend, we were able to also start working through the next grouping as well. This is called the “1A2a” group, and includes faculty, staff, trainees, and students who were not in the 1A1 group but who also work in hospital-based roles where there is significant exposure to COVID-19 patients and patients of unknown COVID-19 status. We are still less than one week into our vaccine distribution and are grateful to already have the opportunity to offer it to these additional members of our Mount Sinai family.

The 1A2A group includes:

- Adult ICUs, medical units, labor and delivery, organ transplant units, hospital-based endoscopy and bronchoscopy units, and inpatient dialysis
- Support staff, consultants, residents, fellows, and medical students who spend time on those units, or units in the 1A1 areas, in December and January are included.
- Voluntary physicians who meet these criteria are also included.
- Additional personnel include those performing aerosolizing procedures in an inpatient setting that includes otolaryngology, dental, oral-maxillofacial surgery, thoracic surgery, anesthesiology, bronchoscopists, and speech and language pathologists.

There are two means for individuals in these groups to receive vaccine:

1. Randomly selected individuals from within these categories will receive emails inviting them to schedule vaccination. We will work through the entire 1A2a group in this manner.
2. We have established a standby line to maximize the number of individuals receiving vaccine daily. **Please do not join the standby line unless you are contacted by your departmental leadership.** We are communicating with the departments to facilitate this process.

As a reminder, we will ultimately be able to offer vaccine to all Mount Sinai Hospital and Icahn School of Medicine faculty, staff, students, trainees, and voluntary physicians. We respectfully ask for your patience during that process.

We are also working to expand the hours of the vaccine pods to include weekends and evenings. Subsequent broadcast emails will provide that information. If you are a provider and are willing to volunteer to provide oversight of the pod, that would help us expand these services. Please contact ania.wajnberg@mountsinai.org if you are able to help.

COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall

On Wednesday, December 23, at 10 am, we will be hosting a town hall focused on COVID-19 and vaccine distribution. The Town Hall will be livestreamed via Zoom. You can access the town hall via this [link](#) (password 982931) or by dialing in to +1 929 436 2866 - Webinar ID: 889 2490 4086 (password 982931). **As phone lines may overload, we recommend that everyone use the link** to join the virtual town hall. You can join on your PC or through the Zoom App on your mobile device.

During the town hall, there will be a question and answer feature in the Zoom App, enabling you to submit questions for panelists to address live. A recorded version of the town hall will be available on the [MSHS COVID-19 Website](#) shortly after the conclusion of the event.

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