

COVID-19 Health System Updates

July 21, 2021, Wednesday

I hope all of you saw the note yesterday from Dr. Davis and Dr. Charney about the importance of vaccination against COVID-19. It is critical that each of us—and especially health care workers—protect ourselves and our patients against this deadly disease with a vaccine.

Scott Gottlieb, MD, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration and a Mount Sinai Health System trustee, put it starkly over the weekend on the CBS show *Face the Nation*. He said the Delta variant is so contagious that it is going to infect most people who are not already protected against COVID-19, and added, “For most people who get this Delta variant, it's going to be the most serious virus that they get in their lifetime in terms of the risk of putting them in the hospital.”

I highly recommend that you [watch the segment](#) or [read the transcript](#). And please share this with members of your teams who don't regularly read email.

As of this morning, we had 31 COVID-19-positive inpatients across the system, 9 of whom were in critical care. The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates stood yesterday at 1.3 percent for New York City, 1.7 percent for Long Island, and 1.0 percent for the mid-Hudson region.

Mount Sinai is teaming up again with Accenture and Pfizer to host a panel discussion next week, “Navigating the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Back to School, Back to Community.” The focus will be on safeguarding our families and communities as we prepare for the full-time return to school this fall. The event is next Tuesday, July 27, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm, and you can find more details and registration instructions [here](#).

Calling for TikTok Vaccine Videos

A reminder that our vaccine video contest is still on. Please submit your short video by Sunday, August 1, at 6 pm, to be entered into the contest to win an iPad.



The video should be 15 to 30 seconds long, filmed vertically, and fall into one of these three categories:

1. Did You Know: Benefits of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine
2. A Day in the Life of a Vaccinated Person
3. Tell Me You're Vaccinated Without Telling Me You're Vaccinated

Submit the video to socialmedia@mountsinai.org when it's ready. We've gotten some creative ones already, and I look forward to seeing more.

In closing, I want to underline something else Dr. Davis and Dr. Charney said. Once you are vaccinated, please [register](#) with Employee Health Services so we know that you've done so. We know that a large majority of you have already been vaccinated at Mount Sinai, and we're grateful for that. But to get accurate data that will help us plan for the future, we need to know how many of our people were vaccinated outside the system as well. So whether you want an ID sticker or not, please register.

And if you haven't been vaccinated yet, [please do so now](#). The rising test positivity rates and case numbers indicate there's no time to lose. Please keep yourself and your patients safe. Thank you again for all you do for Mount Sinai and our patients.

Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA
Senior Vice President
Chief Medical Officer
Mount Sinai Health System