

# COVID-19 Health System Updates

October 13, 2021, Wednesday

Our vaccine pods continue to be busy this month, giving out booster shots of the Pfizer vaccine to qualifying individuals, as well as first and second doses to people who've newly decided to get vaccinated.

This is a good time to remind you that all Mount Sinai Health System employees who received the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago are eligible for a booster shot. You—as well as any of your loved ones or patients who qualify—can make an appointment at any Mount Sinai vaccination site [here](#).

If you are an employee making an appointment for yourself, **please use the same personal information you use as a patient**. Don't use your Mount Sinai email address unless you also use that for MyMountSinai and other things related to your personal health care, and please be sure to use your legal name and not a nickname. This will help keep our records straight and avoid confusion.

Booster shots have not yet been authorized for people who originally received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. If that changes in the coming days, I will let you know.

On another note, if you received your first COVID-19 vaccine dose recently, please remember that you have 30 calendar days from your initial vaccination—or until Wednesday, October 27, whichever is later—to receive your second dose in order to be in compliance with the New York State employee vaccine mandate. This rule applies to everyone except for employees who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, have a religious or medical exemption, or have an exemption request pending. Failure to receive the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines will have similar consequences to failure to get the first dose. That means suspension without pay and ultimately termination.

We are watching with interest as the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consider Pfizer's application to authorize its vaccine for children ages 5 to 11. Based on what we know now, the earliest the regulators could act on that appears to be the first week of November. Our pod operations teams are planning behind the scenes for how to provide these vaccinations if the authorization does come through. I will keep you posted.

One last thing on vaccines: Please remember to get your flu shot before that season kicks into high gear. To allow for social distancing, flu shots are by appointment only at all of our sites this year. A list of dates and locations can be found [on the intranet](#) if you're inside the Mount Sinai firewall, and you can make an appointment [here](#). (If you work at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, you'll need to call 646-605-4700.)

As of this morning, we had 76 COVID-19-positive inpatients across the system, 15 of whom were in critical care. The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates were 1.3 percent for New York City, 2.8 percent for Long Island, and 2.5 percent for the mid-Hudson region.

These numbers have been bouncing around quite a bit from day to day, but the overall trend continues to be down. All of your hard work over the last several weeks to vaccinate and treat patients has certainly contributed to that, and I am deeply grateful for it. You continue to be the health care heroes of New York, and I remain, as always, proud to wear the Mount Sinai badge alongside each of you.

**Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA**  
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Mount Sinai Health System