

# A Note of Gratitude

September 24, 2021, Friday

It is our privilege as leaders of the Mount Sinai Health System to work with a team of talented and accomplished individuals—all of you—and our pleasure to thank you from time to time for your outstanding work.

This is one of those times. The effort that so many of you put in over the past few months to help us comply with the New York State COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers was simply extraordinary. It was also overwhelmingly successful. As of today, nearly all of our Mount Sinai family has reported being vaccinated.

We offer our deepest gratitude to all who were involved. This includes those who performed the vaccinations, built databases to track them, and set up the mandatory testing program for those with exemptions, and especially those who engaged—one on one or in groups and town halls—with our unvaccinated employees. Because of your efforts, we have complied with the state's requirements.

But it's not just about fulfilling a regulatory requirement. This vaccine drive was about protecting you, your colleagues, your families, and our patients against COVID-19. For all the talk about new variants and waning protection, the simple fact is that all of the vaccines remain highly effective at preventing severe illness and death from this disease. And each one of us who is vaccinated now has that protection.

The vaccination effort is far from over. As you may have seen on the news, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have now authorized booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for people who received their first and second Pfizer shots at least six months earlier.

The [CDC said](#) these groups **should** get the booster shot:

- People 65 and over
- Residents in long-term care facilities

- People 50-64 with underlying medical conditions that put them at risk for severe COVID-19

The CDC said these groups **may** get the booster shot:

- People 18-49 with underlying medical conditions, based on an individualized assessment of need
- People—including health care workers—who are regularly exposed to COVID-19 through their jobs

Again, at this time booster shots would be only for people who originally received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. We are awaiting guidelines from the New York State Department of Health before we can offer these shots here at Mount Sinai. We understand these developments have been confusing and we appreciate your patience as the regulatory process plays out. We will keep you updated.

Thank you again for all you do. We hope you have a good weekend.

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