

COVID-19 Health System Updates

September 29, 2021, Wednesday

A lot of things happened in the last few weeks, and now it feels like we finally have a chance to catch our breath.

The work so many of you did to understand and address your colleagues' concerns and help them to be vaccinated ahead of the state's deadline was simply extraordinary. The work that so many of you did to look at the facts and make the choice to be vaccinated was equally extraordinary. I am happy to report that in the end, we anticipate that fewer than 1 percent of our Mount Sinai family will have chosen to leave rather than be vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccination program is another big step toward keeping our patients, our colleagues, and ourselves safe from COVID-19 and bringing this pandemic closer to an end.

Beyond Mount Sinai, there is more good news about vaccination. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene [reported](#) yesterday that more than 82 percent of adults in the city have now received at least one vaccine dose, and almost 75 percent are fully vaccinated. That's a remarkable number. Your vaccine efforts here at Mount Sinai helped make that happen, and you should be proud of what you've accomplished.

I will keep this week's update brief, but I do want to highlight that booster shots are now available to all Mount Sinai Health System employees who received their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least six months ago. (Booster shots are not authorized at this time for the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.)

As we announced on Monday, we are giving our Mount Sinai family the first chance at appointments for these booster shots at our pods. You can make an appointment [here](#). On Monday, October 4, we will open these appointments to the public. If you want a booster shot but it's not convenient for you to come to a Mount Sinai location, you can also find appointments through the [New York State, New York City, New Jersey](#), or

[Connecticut](#) websites. Wherever you get the shot, please bring your original vaccine card to the appointment so that the booster shot can be added to it.

As of this morning, we had 98 COVID-19-positive inpatients across the system, 13 of whom were in critical care. The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates as of yesterday were 1.6 percent for New York City, 3.3 percent for Long Island, and 2.8 percent for the mid-Hudson region.

Depending on how things go from here, we may cut back the frequency of these updates, as we have in the past. But please be assured that whether you hear from me or not, I am forever grateful for, and extremely proud of, everything you do each week for our patients, our communities, and our Health System.

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