

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

## Message from Mitchell Katz and Danielle DiBari

### A Shot of Hope

The COVID-19 vaccine has arrived at NYC Health + Hospitals! And with it we mark the beginning of the end of this vicious pandemic.

Today we begin to vaccinate the first priority group of health care heroes in our hospitals - the ED and ICU team members who are 60 years old and older. And next week we begin to offer vaccine to all our staff in the five post-acute care facilities who care for some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers in our nursing homes.

If you are 60 yrs + and work in one of our hospital EDs or ICUs in any role, you can visit the COVID-19 vaccination scheduler at <https://covid19vaccinationscheduler.nychhc.org/> to make an appointment and get vaccinated in your hospital.

If you work in one of our post-acute care facilities, you'll hear directly from our pharmacy partner about how to make an appointment and which days they will be coming to your facility to vaccinate both staff and our nursing home residents.

We hope to have enough vaccine for everyone who works in our hospitals in the next 3 weeks as vaccine supplies become available and following the priority population guidance of federal and state authorities. The COVID-19 vaccine is available at no cost and it's not mandatory for anyone. But it is our best defense against the deadly virus.

It will take some time to get vaccine available to every worker in our health care system who wants to get this level of protection. But the day when every single NYC Health + Hospitals employee has access to this vaccine is now in the near horizon.

We should celebrate and prepare to get vaccinated when our turn comes. We will certainly be making our appointments as soon as we have supplies available for clinic-based primary care providers and senior executive leaders. We should also learn all we can about the importance of the vaccine so we can

guide and encourage our patients to get vaccinated when their day arrives later next year.

This is truly a hopeful and historic moment in the fight against COVID-19. We are thrilled that our amazing and fearless health care heroes will have the opportunity to be among the first in the country to receive the vaccine to protect themselves, their colleagues, their patients, families and community.



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