



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

media@uhnj.org

(973) 634-8298

University Hospital Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Mandate for Employees Who Originally Received Single-Dose Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

University Hospital Institutes Mandate to Protect Employees, Patients and the Community

NEWARK, NJ – October 27, 2021 – On the heels of approval by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for COVID-19 booster shots for targeted American populations, University Hospital (UH) announced today that it has implemented a COVID-19 vaccine booster mandate for employees who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine for COVID-19.

Last week's approvals by the CDC and FDA include approval for immediate access to booster shots by employees of acute care hospitals, such as University Hospital. Hospital employees are eligible for the booster, provided there has been a gap of six (6) months for those who originally received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine series or two (2) months for the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccination.

With respect to this mandate, all employees who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as their primary vaccination are required to obtain their booster shot by Friday, December 24th. Employees will have the option to receive their choice of one of the three approved COVID-19 vaccines, as federal guidance allows for the "mix and match" of primary vaccination injections and the booster. Hospital leadership will continue to monitor data to determine if any additional mandates will be required for employees who received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

"Data and analysis indicate that a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may no longer confer a level of effectiveness that prevents COVID-19 infection in enough of our employees if they are exposed, which has implications on our ability to keep vulnerable patients and families safe," said **Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA, President and CEO of University Hospital**. "Our rationale for mandating primary vaccinations was to keep all of our employees, vulnerable patients, families, and communities safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. In light of the CDC and FDA decision-making on Johnson & Johnson

vaccine boosters last week, we believe boosters are necessary to achieve this goal for those who received this single-dose vaccine.”

“The CDC’s recommendations for booster doses will provide additional protections for all those who have finished their primary series and also offer vaccine choice for boosters,” said **New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli**. “Healthcare workers have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 virus, and with the Delta variant remaining active, booster doses will help increase immunity not only for recipients but will further protect the healthcare community.”

There is strong evidence from leading health care researchers that “breakthrough infections” in health care workers are up across the nation due both to the Delta variant and waning immunity from initial vaccination. With the majority of the UH employee population having received the vaccination in December and January, these employees are eligible for booster shots immediately, regardless of their original vaccination type. The Hospital will make vaccine injections available to employees through its on-site vaccination clinic.

#

About University Hospital

University Hospital is one of the nation’s leading academic medical centers and is the Level 1 Trauma Center for Northern New Jersey. Located at University Heights in Newark, University Hospital is a principal teaching hospital of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and a regional resource for advanced services across many medical specialties. For more information about University Hospital, please visit www.uhnj.org.

#