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## CFS staff involved in NADSP COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy PSA

See DSP Uwvie Obodo below being photographed while filming for NADSP Public Service Announcement. Shout out also to Yolanda and Sharon who were also interviewed and Joanne who organized the filming with NADSP. When video is released we will share!



### **Aaannnd, Action! A Behind-The-Scenes Look At NADSP's COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy PSAs - NADSP**

Last month, the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) announced that it would be conducting a comprehensive campaign across the country to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among direct support professionals (DSPs). This initiative is part of a cooperative agreement with the...

 [nadsp.org](https://nadsp.org)

## New York Vaccination Incentive Payment

CFS has been informed that New York State has received a new grant which includes a COVID 19 vaccination incentive payment, a longevity retention bonus and other types of bonuses.

All NY DSP employees who has been fully vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccine by **[November 30, 2021](#)** will be eligible to receive an incentive payment as described below. For those that may begin their vaccination regimen prior to November 30th you will be eligible to receive this bonus when fully vaccinated. Incentive payments will be made only if you provide proof of vaccination. You may send your COVID 19 vaccination card to [HRvacstats@cfsny.org](mailto:HRvacstats@cfsny.org), our confidential HR email address.

Payments will be distributed as follows:

A payment of \$500 per employee who is employed on a full-time basis

A payment of \$250 per employee who is employed at least, but not less than 20 hours/week, and  
A payment of \$125 for part-time employees who are employed less than 20 hours/week.

Please be advised the sooner that we are informed that you have received your vaccination, the  
sooner we can issue the incentive payment .

Regarding the incentive payments on the longevity, retention and other types of bonuses, we are  
currently awaiting on guidance. We will inform you as soon as we receive more information.  
Once again, we want to say that we appreciate and thank you for your hard work and commitment.  
Any questions, please let me know.

Annise Valdez-Godek, SHRM-CP

Human Resources Director

## Get Vaccinated Before the Holidays!



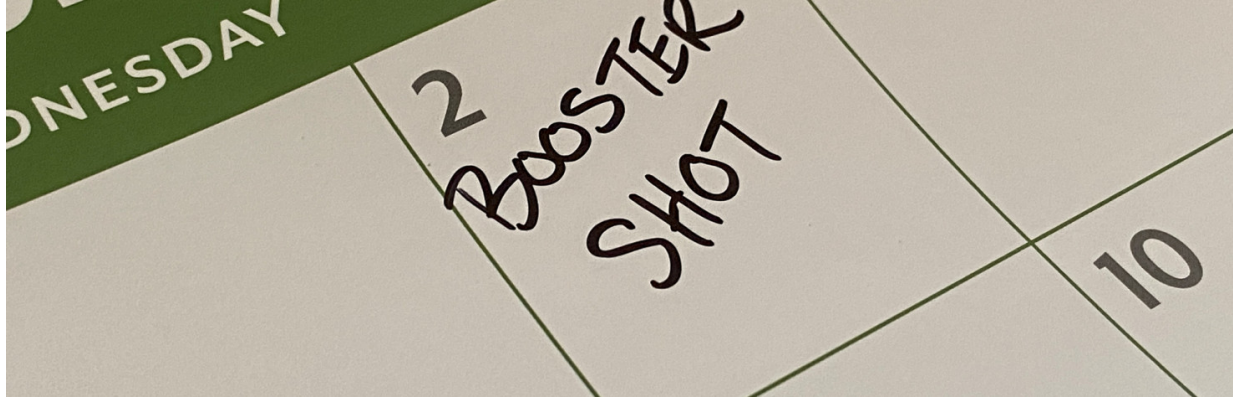
### The CDC emphasizes COVID vaccinations as a key to safe holiday gatherings

In the new guidance issued Friday, the CDC says the best way to safely celebrate the holiday season is by being vaccinated (if eligible) against the coronavirus.

 [npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

## COVID-19 Boosters - Have You Had Your Booster?

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are offered free for people who are living in the U.S.—even those without health insurance! Take advantage and get your booster shot if eligible.



**Click this link to complete a short survey about the booster.**



In both NY and NJ we are still planning to offer COVID-19 Booster Clinics. If you are interested in having a Booster shot and would like to participate in our Booster Clinic, please let us know. In NY, if interested, email Shyanne Gadson - [sgadson@cfsny.org](mailto:sgadson@cfsny.org). In NJ, if interested, email Donna Messina [dmessina@cfsny.org](mailto:dmessina@cfsny.org)

However, Booster shots are widely available to those who are eligible including our Direct Support Professional workforce. Click links below to schedule a Booster shot in your community. In NYC if you text your zip code to 438829, you can see vaccine locations in your neighborhood and it even asks you if you want a ride!

We want to make sure we are properly counting the numbers of staff who are vaccinated. So if you have been vaccinated make sure to send a copy of your vaccine card to [hvacstats@cfsny.org](mailto:hvacstats@cfsny.org).

As we receive information on additional mandates that will impact our workforce, we will share that information with you. However, in the meantime, join the millions of people and GET VACCINATED.

YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE AND A CHANCE TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD



**NY Booster Doses  
Appointment Finder**



**NEW JERSEY  
COVID-19 Information Hu**

**NJ Vaccine Appointment  
Finder (Including Boosters)**

Maximize your protection against COVID-19.

Free booster shots are widely available statewide for eligible New Yorkers.

 covid19vaccine.health...

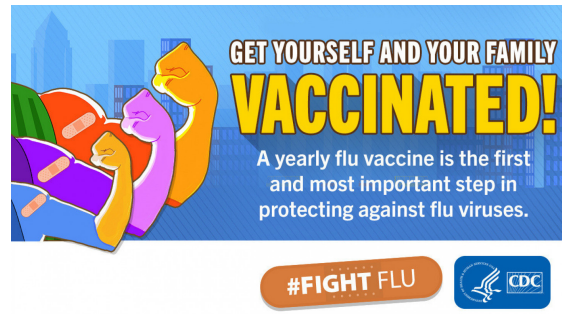
Find and schedule a vaccine appointment at

New Jersey vaccination locations near you.

All individuals aged 12 and older who live, work, or study in New Jersey are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

 covid19.nj.gov

## Flu Season!



The flu season is starting and will last through the fall and winter. We will be launching our flu shot program for this season. Due to the pandemic, we will not have a health provider visit any of our offices to administer the flu shot.

For those who are participants of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, you can receive the shot by visiting your doctor. There is not a cost for the shot, and you will not be charged a co-pay for the visit. If you would like to visit a pharmacy, (CVS, Walgreen, RiteAid), or a store (Walmart, Costco, Shoprite), you have to show your Cigna medical card, and the shot is of no charge. Check the website or call to ensure that you will not need an appointment from these places. Target is also providing the flu shot, and offering a \$5.00 coupon, (this maybe a limited time only).

Employees who are not covered under our Cigna healthcare plan, we are also making arrangements for you to receive the shot (at no charge to you). CFS employees can obtain their Flu Shot at any local City MD Location. If interested, contact Maria Tichio or Melonie Singleton to obtain a medical services form.

To learn more about the flu, and what you can do, I am including a link from the CDC "Frequently Asked Influenza Questions 2020-2021 Season"

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>

By working together, we can protect our workforce, while having a productive fall and winter.

Any questions, please contact myself or your Human Resources Team;

Melonie Singleton

Maria Tichio

Amanda Williams

Eileen Flanagan

Be safe, and stay well!

Annise Valdez-Godek

## We Want to Hear From You!



WINNER OF THE \$100 GIFT  
CARD

Louron Daley



Special thanks to Arnaldo Giraldo for translating the newsletter into Spanish!

To reach out to our newsletter committee with any questions please contact Joanne Cropper [jcropper2@cfsny.org](mailto:jcropper2@cfsny.org), Donna Messina [dmessina@cfsny.org](mailto:dmessina@cfsny.org) or Linda Schellenberg [lschellenberg@cfsny.org](mailto:lschellenberg@cfsny.org)