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Congratulations CFS staff! 933 (and counting) of you are vaccinated!!! So many of you have stepped up to do your part towards reducing the spread of COVID, protecting yourself, your family members and the people we support.



New York City Vaccination Mandate

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, New York City is requiring that all workers in NYC be vaccinated. This mandate will be effective on December 27, 2021. On or before December 27, every employee must have provided proof of at least the first dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine by sending a digital copy of their vaccination card to HRvacstats@cfsny.org. To find a vaccination site, go to <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/> or call 877-VAX-4-NYC (877-829-4692) for help.

Unvaccinated employees who would like to request a medical or religious exemption, must have filed a request by 5:00 pm on December 27th. While your request for an exemption is being reviewed, you will be allowed to work if you furnish proof of a weekly negative COVID test. Please be aware that your request may be denied. Please send your test to your direct supervisor and cc Vaxtestresults@cfsny.org.

Please note that as of 1/10 the OSHA Vaccination and Testing standard goes into effect federally. For more information visit this link: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets2>

We will provide updates and information as we receive them.

What We Know about OMICRON

Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. However, breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur. With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.

Masks offer protection against all variants. Tests can tell you if you are currently infected with COVID-19.

Get Tested NOW - Click to find out Where

Everyone should get tested now, whether or not you have symptoms or are at increased risk Your COVID-19 diagnostic test may be conducted using a nasal swab, oral swab, or saliva sample If your first COVID test is negative, you should get tested again if you:

- Are concerned about possible exposure
- Have spent time in a large crowd
- Have had exposure to someone with confirmed or possible COVID-19
- Have symptoms
- Work in a congregate setting like a nursing home or shelter, or are planning to visit someone at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness

Most results are returned in about 3-5 days and your test results are confidential

Click below to find testing sites near you - in NYC, New Jersey, New York State and Nassau County

NEW YORK CITY COVID-19 Testing - Coronavirus

To find a testing site near you, enter your address below, or text "COVID TEST" to 855-48.

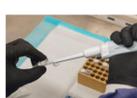
www1.nyc.gov



NEW JERSEY How To Get Tested For COVID-19 In New Jersey

Locate a testing site near you, learn how to get tested, and find key information about New Jersey's testing program and related resources.

[covid19.nj.gov](https://www.nj.gov/covid19)



NEW YORK STATE Find a Test Site Near You

Testing for COVID-19 is widely available throughout New York State.

Individuals who have questions about COVID-19 testing should call the New York State COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or visit the NYSDOH website.

[coronavirus.health.ny...](https://www.health.ny.gov)



COVID-19 TESTING | Nassau County, NY - Official Website

[nassaucountyny.gov](https://www.nassaucountyny.gov)

COVID-19 Boosters - Have You Had Your Booster?

Getting vaccinated is the first step. However, in order to continue to fight the virus, we need to get the Booster as often as is clinically recommended. Being six months without having a booster can reduce your immunity. If you have had Pfizer vaccine, it is recommended that you get your booster five months after your last dose.

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.



NY Booster Doses Appointment Finder

Maximize your protection against COVID-19. Free booster shots are widely available statewide for eligible New Yorkers.

[covid19vaccine.health...](https://www.health.ny.gov)



NEW JERSEY COVID-19 Information Hub

NJ Vaccine Appointment Finder (Including Boosters)

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](https://www.nj.gov/covid19)

Don't Forget - Mask Up! It's required!

OPWDD issued emergency regulations (14 NYCRR §633.26) requiring all agencies providing services or operating facilities that are certified or operated by OPWDD to require all staff, volunteers, contractors, vendors, visitors and individuals receiving services to wear appropriate face coverings consistent with any directives issued by OPWDD and consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the individuals served by OPWDD and OPWDD providers and the staff that support them. CDC guidelines, in accordance with OSHA standards, has clarified that cloth masks are not considered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). **Surgical masks, KN95s and N95 are "typically cleared by the US Food and Drug Administration" and are the appropriate "masks/face coverings" to be used as PPE.**

We have appropriate masks available, please reach out to your direct supervisor to coordinate getting these masks.

For NY Community Staff, you can visit our locations to pick up masks on the following days:

Bronx office Wednesdays 9am - 3pm

Floral Park office Thursdays 10am - 3pm

Staten Island office Wednesdays 10am - 2pm**

Manhattan office Fridays 10am - 2pm

****New Staten Island Office Location - 800 Annadale Rd Staten Island NY 10312**

Another WHY Story

I am vaccinated and was recently diagnosed with COVID. I did feel sick but I am so thankful that I was vaccinated because if not, I believe I would be in the hospital. I believe that this extra layer of protection has allowed me to get through this.

I can hear in my head, non-vaccinated people saying "you see, you got covid even though you were vaccinated", and to them I say, yes but I did not die and did not get seriously ill from it.

New York Vaccination Incentive Payment

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 14, 2022! It is not too late to get your vaccination if you have not done so already.

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 January 14, 2022 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, 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.

Employees will receive this bonus on January 21, 2022

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.

Annise Valdez-Godek, SHRM-CP
Human Resources Director

Send Us Your Vaccination Cards

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 hrvacstats@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.

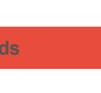
YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE AND A CHANCE TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD

We Want to Hear From You!



WINNER OF THE \$100 GIFT CARD

Tameka Blackwood-Caines



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, Donna Messina d Messina@cfsny.org or Linda Schellenberg lschellenberg@cfsny.org