URMC/Strong Memorial Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Progress

The University of Rochester Medical Center/Strong Memorial Hospital has followed all guidance and requirements issued by New York State Department of Health related to Covid19 vaccine eligibility, and has been active in our community to assure equity in vaccine administration, with particular outreach to underserved urban populations.

**Vaccination Statistics as of Tuesday 1/26/2021:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First doses received as of 1/25/2021</td>
<td>18,030</td>
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<tr>
<td>First doses given to SMH employees as of 1/26/2021</td>
<td>18,718</td>
<td>Includes 688 doses provided to our employees through allocations from Rochester Regional, Highland and Unity hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMH/URMC employees fully vaccinated as of 1/27/21</td>
<td>8,993</td>
<td>Includes first and second doses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals vaccinated not employed by URMC</td>
<td>5,552</td>
<td>Eligible healthcare workers in the community, residents/employees of congregate living and care homes, eligible persons 65 and over, and persons in eligible 1b occupational groups.</td>
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**December 14-January 11**

- **Employee Vaccination Program:** Initially, URMC/SMH followed the December NYSDOH guidance for being considered in the 1A eligibility category. Given the limited vaccine supply, employees at highest risk for Covid19 exposure (Critical Care, Units with Covid19 patients, Emergency Department, Perioperative units, etc.) were invited to be vaccinated in the first weeks of vaccine availability through SMH Employee Health department. Subsequently, all other healthcare workers who met the NYS 1A eligibility guidelines, including community-based healthcare workers who had an affiliation with our healthcare system, were invited to be vaccinated. We also included medical, nursing and other allied health students who were beginning rotations in our clinic areas. URMC/SMH did **not** offer vaccine to employees working consistently from home, nor to those who did not have responsibilities in our clinical areas.

**January 12 – Present**

- **Employee Vaccination Program:** NSYDOH issued new guidance on January 12, 2021, opening eligibility to the 1B category. Given that the University of Rochester has many teaching faculty, our vaccine-eligible matrix was expanded to include the category “In-person College Faculty and Instructors,” as well as Warner School of Education students who were starting in-person student teaching experiences in P-12 area schools and employees age 65 and over.
Patient Vaccination Program: To accommodate this expanded eligibility, URMC/ SMH set up public-facing Patient vaccine clinics in two locations – one in downtown Rochester and the other on the URMC campus. URMC identified 107,000 active patients, age 65 and older, receiving care in our healthcare system. The selection process for inviting these patients to register for vaccine involves a randomized algorithm to assure that all patients have an equal chance of being selected. To promote equity in the distribution of a limited vaccination supply, the downtown clinic used the randomization process only for patients with inner-city zip codes. The clinic on the URMC campus was available, equally, to city residents and suburban residents.

January 27 to Present

Mobile Vaccination Clinic: At the request of the Finger Lakes Vaccination Hub and support of the Monroe County Health Department, URMC/SMH also set up a Mobile Vaccination Clinic to provide vaccination in group homes and other sites where residents and employees were identified as being in the 1A group but who did not have easy access to vaccine. Through January 27, 2021, this Mobile Vaccination Clinic administered over 700 doses with another 140 doses scheduled across the following organizations including: Heritage Christian Services, CDS Monarch, Epilepsy Pralid, FLDDSO, Hillside, Lifetime, People Inc, Starbridge. We continue to schedule vaccine clinics as supply allows.

Facts Relating to January 14 and 15

When NYSDOH issued new eligibility guidance on January 12, our Employee Health department distributed an online vaccine clinic registration link to a targeted group of University faculty, staff and students who were newly eligible for the vaccine at the 1B level. It was our intent to send this link only to this group, as at that point in time, we had a supply of vaccine, had already invited all of our 1A employees, and had been instructed by NYSDOH that all vaccine had to be used by the end of the week. Registration slots were filled on a “first clicked” basis. We planned to extend the link to our in-person instructors as soon as vaccine supply would allow.

We later learned that this link was shared outside of our organization and widely disseminated via social media and posted on numerous websites. In addition, our Executive Health team sent this registration link to a small number of individuals who receive services in that program. Our records indicate that 26 of these individuals followed the required registration process and were validated through the attestation process as being 1B eligible.

As a result of the unintended external dissemination of our registration link, we estimate that more than 600 of the 950 first dose clinic slots available in the clinics on January 14 and 15 were filled by individuals (teachers and other 1B occupational groups) not employed by our organization. Despite the high volume, everyone who registered and showed proof of meeting the 1B criteria were vaccinated.

Based on the experience in our Employee Health Vaccination Clinic on January 14 and 15, we have revised our registration link so that it cannot be forwarded to others. We have also made clear to staff that no vaccine registration materials should be sent to others outside of the intended groups. There has been no other proactive outreach to non-employees, and we have adhered to a strict randomization algorithm for selecting patients for our Patient Vaccination PODs.