



**Partners  
in Care** ♥

A Message From

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## **What Happens on October 8th if You Don't Get Vaccinated?**

With the New York State Department of Health COVID-19 vaccine mandate just two weeks from taking effect, we understand that some unvaccinated staff members may still be hesitant about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. As you make your decision whether or not to comply with the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, it may be helpful to remember what will happen if you choose not to get vaccinated by October 7th. If that happens, then the next day — October 8th — here is what you can expect:

- If you are not vaccinated by October 7th (or granted an exemption), then starting on October 8th, you'll no longer be assigned a case. (This applies to all Home Health Aides in New York State, not just VNSNY Partners in Care Home Health Aides.)
- Starting on October 8th, you will have an additional two-week grace period to get vaccinated against COVID-19, in which case you can begin working again.
- On October 22nd, if you still haven't received the COVID vaccine, you'll be terminated immediately. However, **Home Health Aides who decide to get vaccinated after being terminated are welcome to return to work.**
- If you are terminated, your company-subsidized medical insurance will end on October 31.
- You can elect COBRA medical insurance once your company-subsidized coverage ends, but please note that this insurance is expensive and you must pay the full cost.
- Also, it is our understanding that if you are terminated because you choose not to get the COVID vaccine, you will not be eligible for unemployment insurance.

## **If This Helps in Your Decision: More and More VNSNY and Partners in Care Staff Are Making the Decision to Get Vaccinated**

If you're thinking that it makes sense for you to get the COVID-19 vaccine, you're not alone. A significant number of Partners in Care and VNSNY staff received their first vaccine dose over the past two weeks.

## **Unsure What to Believe and What Not to Believe About the Vaccine?**

For a helpful two-pager on COVID-19 vaccine "Myths vs Facts," go to [https://frontline.vnsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/APIC\\_Covid-Vaccine\\_Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://frontline.vnsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/APIC_Covid-Vaccine_Fact-Sheet.pdf)

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## **Where Can I Get Vaccinated and Where Should I Submit My Proof? Also, What If I Want to Apply for a Medical or Religious Exemption?**

For information on COVID-19 vaccination sites in your area — as well as how to submit your proof of vaccination — go to <https://frontline.vnsny.org/partners-in-care/latest-vaccine-news/>.

**Reminder:** You can also get vaccinated at the mobile NYC vaccine van that'll be parked right in front of our 220 East 42nd Street building on Thursday, September 30th; Friday, October 1st; and Saturday, October 2nd.

For information on how to apply for a medical or religious vaccine exemption, go to <https://frontline.vnsny.org/partners-in-care/latest-vaccine-news/>

Keep in mind that applications should be submitted by September 27th (today!) so they can be considered in time for the October 7th deadline.

***Only 10 days left until October 7th! Please get vaccinated! You're an extremely valued employee and we want you to keep working!***