

As I mentioned in my weekly update this past Friday, there has been much discussion – both nationally and locally - about mandatory vaccinations against COVID-19.

Today, I want to give all of our associates a heads up about a joint announcement from the University of Rochester, Rochester Regional Health and others.

We will soon require associates choosing to remain unvaccinated to participate in PCR nasal swab testing on a weekly basis. In addition, these associates will continue to be screened daily.

Given the outbreaks around the country and the new information emerging about the highly-transmissible Delta variant, healthcare officials throughout the region are in agreement: This is the best path, at this point in the pandemic, for everyone involved. It's for the safety of our staff and the safety of the people entrusted in our care.

Over the past year and a half, we have collectively faced many challenges, both at work and in our personal lives. Many of us have lost loved ones, felt isolated, or watched helplessly as friends' and family members' livelihoods have been upended and children have missed out on rites of passage. Our associates have endured a great deal and have fought valiantly against this virus, delivering exceptional care despite the heavy personal toll.

The last thing anyone wants is to return to the darkest days of the pandemic. With the vaccine, we have a powerful weapon in this fight. We are strongly encouraging everyone who is eligible to pick up that weapon, for the greater good. The vaccine is available through our Canandaigua Medical Group Pharmacy and further opportunities to receive it will be offered via Associate Health in the coming weeks.

As of 6 a.m., this morning, a total of 164,757,423 Americans had been fully vaccinated, according to the CDC's data. This includes, currently, 84 percent of our full-time associates.

If you choose to remain unvaccinated, you will need to be tested on a weekly basis and door-screened on a daily basis so our patients and residents can rest assured we are doing all we can to prevent further transmission of this virus.

A list of FAQs is attached. Please review it and as always, please remain vigilant with regard to masking and all other precautions. Thank you.