



Montefiore

Dear Einstein Community:

Yesterday we learned that the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) has [granted full approval](#) to the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in individuals 16 and older. This is the first COVID-19 vaccine fully approved by the FDA; previous approval had been for emergency use, so this is a significant step forward in our efforts—both at Einstein and throughout our nation—to get as many eligible individuals vaccinated as possible. As a reminder, for those who may have been waiting for this news, please refer to our [dedicated COVID-19 website](#) for information on how to schedule your vaccination.

We're pleased to share with you that 94% of our students, staff, faculty, and volunteers are vaccinated. Those individuals who are unvaccinated have completed exemption or exception requests and must test twice per week and show negative results in order to continue coming to campus. In this way, we're creating a "safe bubble" at Einstein, enabling us to come to campus under conditions designed to protect our health.

Recently, we also shared some [updates to our campus policy](#) concerning mask wearing, which we reinstated for everyone—including vaccinated individuals—out of an abundance of caution to keep all members of our campus community safe. That said, we'd like to offer a gentle reminder that we all need to wear our masks whenever we are anywhere indoors on campus—unless we are alone in an office. At all other times, please don your mask.

When eating, please [take note of the recommended practices](#) of keeping six feet apart from others, only removing your mask when eating, avoiding sitting directly opposite from others, and keeping meals to 15 minutes or less. If you're able to eat in your office with the door closed or find outdoor seating in nice weather, that is preferred.

In closing, we'd like to thank you again for your cooperation in keeping Einstein vital during the past 18 months, while also keeping one another safe. It's often been said that we're in this together, and we have demonstrated the caring and

concern for one another that has always made our institution a special place to work.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email yvonne.ramirez@einsteinmed.org.

Sincerely,

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.
Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
Montefiore Medicine

Yvonne M. Ramirez
Vice President, Human Resources and Chief Title IX Officer