

Covid19 Vaccinations for Baystate Workers



COVID19 vaccinations for patient-facing health care workers at Baystate began in late December with great expectation. As of January 12, more than 8200 Baystate employees have received their first dose. **Dr. Joeli Hettler**, Chief of the Pediatric Emergency Department at Baystate Children's Hospital pretty much sums up the feelings of relief, excitement and gratitude for all of us. "I feel a huge sense of relief to have had both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Knowing I can expect to have the levels of protection shown by the vaccine trials leaves me and my family so grateful for "Science." I'm sleeping better at night. I didn't realize how much I'd been worrying about my frontline ED team members getting COVID, until I felt the relief of seeing our high vaccine acceptance rates. I've read that side effects from the vaccine are more common after the second dose, are self-limited and often start 12-24 hours after administration. I scheduled my vaccine to have the least impact on other responsibilities and to "treat" myself through any side effects, I stopped by my favorite bakery for a few cookies and prepared a list of movies to watch. Happily, like after the first shot, my only side effect was a sore arm. I ate the cookies and watched movies anyway. I welcome the responsibility that comes with being a Baystate employee, knowing that people watch what I do related to how I social distance in my personal life. I feel like the vaccine has offered me an invisible, added layer of PPE but until more people are vaccinated, I won't change much about how I interact with people at work or at home. I'm trying to spread the word and share with everyone in my personal circle how relieved I am to be vaccinated. I hope people will feel as grateful and confident as I do about getting vaccinated themselves."