

Staff inoculations underway at hospitals across the city

Following the administering of the Covid-19 vaccine to Long Island Jewish Medical Center nurse Sandra Lindsay on Monday, inoculations for hospital staff across the region were underway within hours, several institutions announced.

Hospital leaders told *Crain's* on Tuesday that they are hopeful they will soon be able to vaccinate their entire workforce.

"This pandemic has been compared many times to a war," said Dr. Adhi Sharma, chief medical officer at Mount Sinai South Nassau, who is coordinating the hospital's vaccination plan. "This is the turning point in the battle."

The hospital has estimated that it can vaccinate some 600 staffers a week, depending upon vaccine availability, he said. It is possible that nearly the entire staff could be vaccinated early next year. Doctors, nurses and other workers will be vaccinated in order of their unit's level of potential exposure to the virus.

On Tuesday, as several of the hospital's workers were publicly vaccinated, onlookers burst into applause.

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University on Tuesday also announced it had started administering vaccinations to staff. From March to June, SUNY Downstate's University Hospital of Brooklyn served as the Covid-designated hospital for the borough.

Richmond University Medical Center said that its frontline workers were receiving their first inoculations Tuesday. Recipients will receive a booster injection three weeks later, it noted.

A spokesman confirmed RUMC would be vaccinating staff following guidance from the state Department of Health. The hospital is hoping to vaccinate its staff as quickly as possible, he said.

St. John's Episcopal Hospital also announced Tuesday that it had begun vaccinating its frontline workers. The Rockaways were among the most affected communities during the early peak of the virus in New York.

As for the state's nursing homes and assisted-living facilities, inoculations are expected to [begin](#) early next week and be completed in February. —Jennifer Henderson