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Dear Colleagues,

As you know, Montefiore Hospital has been directed by New York State to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to municipal employees in New Rochelle. We received our vaccination this week with complete confidence in its safety and efficacy, and we urge you to get your own vaccination as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. There are several vital reasons to be vaccinated:

- 1) **Protect Yourself and Your Family:** The vaccine is the most effective protection against the virus, and the best means of safeguarding your own health and the health of your family, especially as a more contagious variant of the virus takes hold. Many of us are mourning painful losses from COVID-19, and we should not put additional lives needlessly at risk.
- 2) **Demonstrate Courtesy:** As colleagues, we depend on each other to create a safe work environment. Everyone's safety is compromised when some choose to take the vaccine and others do not.
- 3) **Help Us Recover:** Widespread vaccination is the only means of achieving "herd immunity", ending the pandemic, and restoring normal life to our community and nation. By receiving a vaccine, we do our part to end a global crisis.
- 4) **Set a Positive Example:** Vaccine hesitancy is almost always based on fear and misinformation. By receiving your own vaccine, and letting others know about it, you can set a positive example for your friends and loved ones, and encourage all people in New Rochelle take this essential and responsible step.

It is important to recognize that the vaccine has been subjected to rigorous medical and scientific study, and that it has already been administered safely to millions of people. You can find additional information at [ny.gov/vaccine](https://ny.gov/vaccine) or you can do your own research by consulting reputable and respected medical journals, government publications, and news sources. The bottom line is that there are many compelling reasons to get vaccinated and none whatsoever to decline.

For almost a year, we have been in the dark tunnel of COVID-19. The vaccine is the light at the end of the tunnel. Let's get there together.

Thank you for your consideration,

Noam Bramson and Chuck Strome