

REMEMBERING 9/11  
TWENTY YEARS LATER

# On LI, Honoring Those Lost

A4-5



NEWSDAY / THOMAS A. FERRARA

Rosemary Cain remembers her FDNY firefighter son George Cain in Oyster Bay.

# Americans Among 200 On Flight Out Of Afghanistan

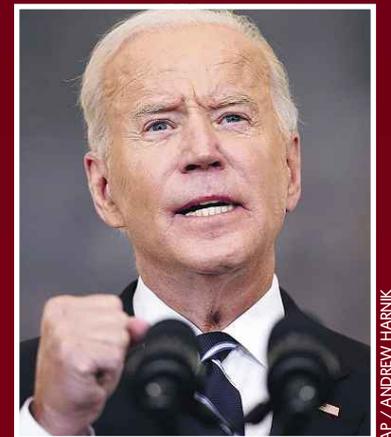
A7



# NEW VACCINE MANDATES

- Biden orders big employers to require vaccinations or tests
  - LI medical experts, business leaders praise plan
- PLUS:** NYPD won't pay cops who don't comply with vax rules

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REMEMBERING 9/11 TWENTY YEARS LATER

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**Newsday**

# MANDATES



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State Dining Room of the White House on Thursday.

tions to drive the vaccination rate, Biden is taking a much firmer hand, as he blames people who have not yet received shots for the sharp rise in cases killing more than 1,000 people per day and imperiling a fragile economic rebound.

In addition to the vaccination requirements, Biden moved to double federal fines for airline passengers who refuse to wear masks on flights or to maintain face covering requirements on federal property in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

He announced that the government will work to increase the supply of virus tests, and that the White House has secured concessions from retailers including Walmart, Amazon and Kroger to sell at-home testing kits at cost beginning this week.

The administration is also sending additional federal sup-

port to assist schools in safely operating, including additional funding for testing. And Biden called for large entertainment venues and arenas to require vaccinations or proof of a negative test for entry.

The requirement for large companies to mandate vaccinations or weekly testing for employees will be enacted through a forthcoming rule from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that carries penalties of \$14,000 per violation, an administration official said.

The rule will require that large companies provide paid time off for vaccination.

Meanwhile, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will extend a vaccination requirement issued earlier this summer — for nursing home staff — to other health care settings including hospitals, home-health agencies and dialysis centers.

## LI experts praise new COVID plans

### Say it's necessary to reduce effects of delta variant

Some medical experts and business leaders on Long Island praised President Joe Biden's new plan to attack the COVID-19 pandemic as a necessary move to stop the delta variant that is killing hundreds across the country every day.

Biden is requiring businesses with 100 or more employees to have workers vaccinated or tested weekly, while he also is mandating that federal employees and contractors be vaccinated.

The president blamed the 80 million Americans who are eligible for but haven't gotten the shots for prolonging the crisis.

"If the delta variant has taught us anything, it is that we need a far more aggressive national policy that ensures Americans are safe wherever they shop, work, or gather socially," said Kyle Strober, executive director of the Association for a Better Long Island, a regional economic development advocacy organization.

"The president's mandate for businesses over 100 employees gets us far closer to where we need to be in order to put the pandemic behind us," he said.

Matt Cohen, president and chief executive of the Long Island Association, a major business umbrella group, also backed Biden's plan.

"In March 2020, we could have never fathomed that COVID-19 would have such a long-lasting and devastating impact on Long Island's business community," Cohen said.

"Vaccines are critical to finally put this pandemic behind us, especially now that we are confronted with the delta variant. Encouraging vaccinations or requiring testing for the virus by larger employers will help ensure our region's economic recovery, and some have implemented it already."

Medical experts also generally praised Biden's plan.

"Anything that will spur people to get vaccinated is a good idea, whether it's in the form of

This story was reported by **Rachelle Blidner, Robert Brodsky, Matthew Chayes, Lisa L. Colangelo, Scott Eidler, Candice Ferrette, Bart Jones, David Olson** and **Victor Ocasio**. It was written by Jones.

a mandate, whether it's in the form of regular testing if you don't, whether it's in the form of an incentive if you do, or a penalty that says your health care will cost more if you don't," said Dr. Aaron Glatt, chairman of medicine and chief of infectious diseases at Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital.

Some who oppose vaccine mandates have said the issue is a matter of personal freedom. But, Glatt said, laws and mandates that protect public health and safety are not new.

People who remain unvaccinated "are going to cause COVID to spread and they're going to help invite [vaccine-resistant strains and variant strains to occur. That's the problem. It's not like you're living in a vacuum," he said

Dr. David Battinelli, chief medical officer of Northwell Health, said Biden's plan "made sense. We need more availability of vaccines. We need more availability of rapid, quick testing. We need protections for people who want to get vaccinated, but feel that there are others for whatever political or other reasons don't want them vaccinated."

He agreed with the focus on getting more children 12 and over vaccinated.

"The issue about children was on mark with what we've all been saying," Battinelli added. "Make sure everybody who is eligible gets the vaccine, and then you will protect those who aren't eligible to get to get vaccines."

He added: "The main message is to follow the science and stop with the politicization of this. That's been the problem."

Glatt said one reason some resisted getting vaccinated was misinformation and widespread publicity over the small number of "breakthrough cases," in which vaccinated people contracted the virus.

"The vaccines are unbeliev-

ably good at preventing serious illness, ICU admissions, intubations and death," he said. "We haven't done a good enough job reminding everybody and showing them the statistics that unvaccinated people are 99% of the deaths in the United States right now of COVID, and hospitals are filled up with unvaccinated people."

One labor attorney said Biden's plan was helpful.

"Although I suspect there will be some challenges, I think many employers welcome the direction and will comply," said Domenique Camacho Moran, labor and employment attorney at Farrell Fritz in Uniondale.

"Of course, the devil is in the details, and until we see the actual regulation from OSHA, it's hard to know, for example, who will be required to absorb the cost of testing," Moran said. "There are many questions."

Michael Fricchione, a spokesman for Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, said the county "will thoroughly review any mandates that come out of Washington and will adjust policies as legally required."

Derek Poppe, a spokesman for Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, said, "We are in the process of reviewing the latest federal guidance."

Nassau County registered 393 new cases in test results from Wednesday, while Suffolk County had 535, for a total of 928. New York City logged 1,972 new cases, state figures show.

The seven-day average for positivity in testing for the virus inched up again on Long Island, to 4.42%, in state data released Thursday. It was as low as 0.35% on June 29. The statewide average in data released Thursday was 3.35%.

A total of 19 people in the state died on Wednesday of causes linked to the virus. The fatalities included two in Nassau and one in Suffolk.

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**LA requires vax for all students who are 12 and older** **A14**