

On December 14, 2020

Sandra Lindsay, RN

became the first person in the U.S. to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.



Sandra Lindsay is a critical-care nurse at Northwell Health’s Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, New York, where she directs patient care services in her specialty. She has more than 27 years of experience caring unfailingly for the sickest patients.

One of six siblings, she was born and raised in Jamaica by their grandparents, who instilled in them the value of hard work, education, and community service. To follow her childhood dream of becoming a nurse, she moved to the U.S. in 1986, graduating from Borough of Manhattan Community College as valedictorian of her nursing program in 1993.

Sandra lives in Port Washington, Long Island, close to her son and 2-year-old grandson, Avery. When not busy working or spoiling Avery, she enjoys traveling, gardening, and practicing Transcendental Meditation.

Ms. Lindsay is the recipient of several honors including

Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Joe Biden

USA Today’s Women of the Year honoree

President Award from the American Nurses Association

Recognized as U.S.C.I.S. Outstanding Americans by Choice by the White House

Featured in Spike Lee's documentary series *NYC Epicenters 9/11-2021½*

Featured in Al Roker’s Emmy-nominated *Side By Side: A Celebration of Service*

As featured in



“[The pandemic] has taken a toll on so many of us on the frontlines. But I’m proud of our work and honored to represent millions of healthcare workers around the country.”



“I want to be a part of the solution to put an end to this pandemic once and for all. I think also as a leader in the organization that I lead by example.”



“[W]hen the vaccine needle finally pierced my skin, hope also shot into my arm. For so long, fear had replaced hope. But on that day, it came back and pushed fear away.”



“That was the goal today. Not to be the first one to take the vaccine, but to inspire people who look like me, who are skeptical in general about taking vaccines.”