

# COVID-19 Health System Updates

April 3, 2020 Friday

It is hard to put fully into words what we are all grappling with as we navigate our way through this pandemic. The pace of the work, the intensity, the sadness and loss, and the ever-present awareness of risk. Fear and uncertainty cling to us at times. Yet...each day, as we face down our fear and find the strength to come in and do our part, we are engaging in some of the most meaningful and impactful work of our lives. As scary as these days are, this is our time to shine. We are healing so many and comforting those we can't save—one precious life at a time.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,679 COVID-19 positive patients in our hospitals. That included 302 patients in our ICUs. We had another 151 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

## **COVID-19 Clinical Education**

To help support you in your work, we have compiled supplemental educational resources for medical professionals on critical care and other topics related to COVID-19. The resources can be accessed by visiting [Faculty and Staff Education During COVID-19](#) on the COVID-19 Employee Resources [website](#). This section of the website is updated daily. If you have questions or if you have identified any educational gaps, please email [Diane.Adams@mountsinai.org](mailto:Diane.Adams@mountsinai.org).

## **Palliative Care Support Hotline**

There is a 24/7 palliative care support hotline for our Health System front-line providers. The number is 332-215-3020. More information about the hotline can be found [here](#). This is a good resource to use when you are looking for guidance on a range of topics, including goals-of-care discussions and symptom management.

## **Chronicle of COVID-19**

We have set up a portal for employees to help document, in photographs, the remarkable physical transformation of all of our campuses. We'd love for you all to contribute to this archive as you're able. Please take pictures safely and make sure they do not show any patients or protected health information (e.g., on computer screens). Photographs can be submitted [here](#). Please note, they may be used in Mount Sinai publications and marketing and will be considered for inclusion in the Arthur H. Aufses, Jr. MD Archives.

## **Final Thought**

From Ira Byock, a doctor and writer...

*“Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.*

*But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thigh bone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.*

*A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety, and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said.*

*We are at our best when we serve others.”*

Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA  
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