

COVID-19 Health System Updates

March 28, 2020, Saturday

We've been through a tough stretch, but we've made tremendous progress in being able to serve more patients in need at one time than we have ever served before. New units continue to open, you and your colleagues continue to inspire the world with your heroism, and the supply lines are opening up. We are moving patients between hospitals to try and relieve any pressure points while we still have the capacity to do so. It is an amazing amount of progress in a short time.

The city and state continue to add critical medical capacity. The U.S. Navy hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, will be docking in New York on Monday, bringing 1,000 more beds and 1,200 medical personnel to the mission.

The Javits Center's physical retrofitting is now complete, adding 1,000 new beds. And officials are considering additional sites to bring thousands of new beds online, including the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal, the Aqueduct Racetrack, CUNY Staten Island, and the New York Expo Center. Governor Cuomo said the state is also considering converting dormitories at City College and Queens College into hospital rooms, as well as rooms at the Marriott Brooklyn Bridge Hotel. This added capacity will help alleviate the burden on all of us and ultimately save lives.

Incredibly, our Health System has 400 more ventilators available for use than we had just a few weeks ago. Each of them will help save many lives.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,014 COVID-19 positive patients in our hospitals. That includes 184 patients in our ICUs. We had another 128 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

Your City Applauds You

Yesterday evening, in a display of support and gratitude for the work you and partners across the city are doing, New Yorkers across the five boroughs conducted a citywide, simultaneous clap at 7 pm. You can read about the #ClapBecauseWeCare campaign and see video of it [here](#).

New Way to Recognize Your Colleagues

There is a new web portal [to submit stories](#) about selfless, above-and-beyond or otherwise remarkable acts by your colleagues engaged in the COVID-19 response: mountsinai.formstack.com/forms/covid19_stories

Updated Employee Testing, Monitoring, and Clearance Process

This weekend, from 7:30 am - 7:30 pm, an Employee Health Services (EHS) hotline can be reached at 212-844-1100. Anyone who has questions should take advantage of it. Providers will be on hand for a symptom check and advice on next steps.

Likewise, the new employee testing, monitoring, and clearance process can be found [here](#). This new guide is easy to understand and follow and will be useful to you.

COVID-19 Labor/HR Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This FAQ has been updated and can be found [here](#).

Fundraising News

In another encouraging development, more than \$20 million in philanthropy has already been raised to support our COVID-19 efforts. Your work is inspiring people across the world to donate, which will help ensure that we have the tools we need in this humanitarian mission of our lifetimes. As you encounter those who want to be supportive to our cause, please share the link to our giving site. giving.mountsinai.org/.

Finally, I just want to reiterate what your work means to your city, country, and to the world. This is a moment in human history and once-in-a-lifetime battle. I couldn't be prouder to be your colleague, and I couldn't be prouder to wear the Mount Sinai badge.

Vicki R. LoPachin
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