

COVID-19 Health System Updates

March 23, 2022, Wednesday

Two years ago, Mount Sinai Brooklyn was among the hospitals hit hardest by the first wave of COVID-19. This week, they reached a milestone: no inpatients with COVID-19, for two days in a row, for the first time since the pandemic began.

They're not the first of our hospitals to reach zero cases, at least briefly, and as of this morning they had received at least one new COVID-19 patient, but for Mount Sinai Brooklyn it's still an important moment, one that everyone there should savor.

As of this morning, we had 26 inpatients with COVID-19 across the system, 6 of whom were in critical care. This week's numbers are the lowest we've recorded since July, before the Delta and Omicron waves.

The New York State seven-day average test positivity rates as of yesterday were 1.2 percent for New York City, 1.9 percent for Long Island, and 2.3 percent for the mid-Hudson region. While still low, these numbers have gone up a bit since last week.

So we are not out of the woods yet, and I know many of you have read about the new Omicron subvariant known as BA.2. In this new [Mount Sinai Today article](#), Bernard Camins, MD, reviews what we know about BA.2 and what steps you should take. His advice includes getting a vaccine booster if you haven't yet, and following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [advice on masking](#).

Five of our leading COVID-19 researchers, and dozens of their team members, got some really nice recognition a few weeks ago from Anthony Fauci, MD. Writing on behalf of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which he leads, Dr. Fauci said:

"Your hard work and dedication in the lab have enabled the research and public health communities to respond to the pandemic with extraordinary speed and efficiency. You

have generated key data on SARS-CoV-2 that is being utilized to inform public health decisions in the United States and internationally. You are a leading example for both the infectious disease and broader biomedical research communities, and I am grateful for your unwavering commitment to global public health.”

The letters were addressed to Adolfo García-Sastre, PhD; Florian Krammer, PhD; Michael Schotsaert, PhD; Viviana Simon, MD, PhD; and Harm van Bakel, PhD. In the letters, Dr. Fauci also mentioned by name 48 of our young researchers who worked with the five leaders, as well as the Mount Sinai Pathogen Surveillance Program. This is such a great honor for them, and for everyone who supports their work. Congratulations to all involved.

Thank you as always for everything you do. I hope you're able to enjoy the fine spring weather we've been having lately.

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