

# COVID-19 Health System Updates

May 22, 2020 Friday

The Memorial Day weekend is upon us. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many of us usually observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. While Memorial Day weekend this year, like so many things, will be different because of the pandemic, I hope that each of us is able to find opportunities to strengthen connections with our loved ones, our support networks, and our communities. These connections are so important to our own well-being as we continue on this journey together.

As COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and new cases continue to decline, yesterday Mayor de Blasio said that New York City could start to reopen in June. What happens after that will be affected significantly by behavior. In that context, I hope you will continue to champion masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing at every opportunity, because we know better than anyone the impact of the virus and because the public trusts us.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 334 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals. That included 94 patients in our ICUs. We had another 134 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

## **Visitor Pilot Program**

New York State will implement a two-week pilot program in a number of New York hospitals—including The Mount Sinai Hospital and Mount Sinai Queens—to allow increased visitations for family members and loved ones. As part of the pilot program, which begins on Tuesday, May 26, visits will be time-limited, visitors will be provided with and must wear appropriate PPE, and all visitors will be subject to symptom and temperature checks. We are developing an implementation plan and will email additional information soon.

## **Safety Hub**

Earlier this month, we launched a "[Safety Hub](#)" on our website, where we document all the things we are doing to keep our patients and staff safe. We know that patients have concerns about exposure to COVID-19, and that is causing some to put off needed care. Through the Safety Hub, we are working to address and allay those fears. As always, please feel free to email [safetyhub@mountsinai.org](mailto:safetyhub@mountsinai.org), where you can send specific questions that you or your patients might have and receive a quick answer.

Likewise, each of us can play an important role in helping to get the message out that it is safe to come for care to our hospitals and ambulatory sites. There are so many people in our communities who are delaying needed care right now. The public trusts you and needs your reassurance.

### **Songs for Mount Sinai**

The fourth installment of “Songs for Mount Sinai” is now live. This is a gift from Broadway actors, singers, and other performers who come together each week to support us with a video playlist. I hope you’ll take a few moments to watch it, and I hope it lifts your day. You can find the new installment [here](#), and all the videos they’ve made since beginning this tribute [here](#).

### **Your Questions and Concerns**

As a reminder, our COVID-19 Employee Resources website is [here](#). And you can always email [CovidQuestions@mountsinai.org](mailto:CovidQuestions@mountsinai.org) if you have any other questions or suggestions for us.

Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA  
Senior Vice President  
Chief Medical Officer  
Mount Sinai Health System