

Confirmed Case of COVID-19

March 02 2020, Monday

On Saturday, February 29, The Mount Sinai Hospital Emergency Department evaluated a person who had recently traveled to Iran and had mild respiratory symptoms. The appropriate isolation protocols were followed, and the case was reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). On Sunday, March 1, we were informed that the patient had tested presumptively positive for COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will perform confirmatory testing.

The patient's symptoms are mild and do not require hospitalization. The patient is currently under home isolation. Mount Sinai is working closely with the NYSDOH and DOHMH and is prepared to evaluate other possible cases.

The risks of COVID-19 to the general population remain low, especially if you follow proper hand hygiene—washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when necessary; cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze; avoid people who are sick; and stay home if you are sick yourself.

Mount Sinai Health System's physicians and staff are trained and equipped to effectively care for patients with complex illnesses, including infectious disease, and we have been comprehensively preparing for COVID-19 for several weeks. We remain at the ready to evaluate and care for any emerging cases and will continue to follow all appropriate protocols to protect our patients, employees, and families.

Kenneth L. Davis, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mount Sinai Health System