

# Gratitude and Community

April 1, 2020 Wednesday

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy in the midst of these unprecedented and challenging times for our city, our state, our country, and our world. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought us to the brink of our shared humanity, and will test us all in the days and months ahead.

Our first responders, health care workers, and the entire staff of Mount Sinai have demonstrated unprecedented courage over these past weeks. I am in awe of them, as well as of the larger community that surrounds them. Many former Mount Sinai colleagues have [volunteered for redeployment](#). Our state and city government have worked diligently to provide us medical staffing and scarce supplies, and our streets ring out with the applause of a grateful community each evening at seven o'clock.

The entire Mount Sinai leadership team is here to support these efforts, but in order to do so, our first responsibility must be to you who are working so tirelessly. The co-Chairmen of our Boards of Trustees, Richard A. Friedman and James S. Tisch, and I know that there is nothing more important in this fight than taking care of you. If you are not cared for, we cannot expect you to care of others during these terrible times. We are working around the clock to secure the equipment, supplies, and staffing you need.

In addition, I wanted to let you know that they and I are developing new initiatives with private companies each day to ensure that other basic needs of our staff are also being met. For starters, today I am happy to confirm two new measures designed to ensure that your nutritional needs are met while this struggle continues:

**Just Salad** will be delivering 10,000 meals per week to our seven New York City hospitals. Each hospital will receive salads, wraps, and sandwiches weekly. These deliveries started on Monday, March 30, and will continue in the weeks ahead.

**Stop & Shop** began delivering sandwiches and snacks to The Mount Sinai Hospital and Mount Sinai South Nassau this week and will continue delivering 2,500 meals per day to each hospital.

These initiatives are in addition to previously announced programs that include free parking and assistance with child care. These and other important sources of support can be found on our [employee resources website](#). I also hope to be developing the ability to offer free hotel accommodations to Mount Sinai staff who need lodging, offering our staff the freedom and

flexibility to rest peacefully during downtime. I will be writing to you in the days ahead as new initiatives are implemented that I hope will ease the tremendous burden on our staff and their families.

To the companies that have donated these services, and to Mr. Friedman, Mr. Tisch, and everyone else at Mount Sinai involved in setting these programs up, I want to express my gratitude. But above all, my deepest gratitude is to you, who are working tirelessly during these grueling and heartbreaking times. We are in this together, and we will prevail: for our patients, for our families and loved ones, and for our city.

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