

# COVID-19 Health Systems Update

April 14, 2020 Tuesday

Yesterday I wrote you that our inpatient COVID-19 census had increased a bit over the weekend. Today I am heartened to report that we are moving in the right direction again. We continue to have enough PPE and ventilators to keep you and your patients safe. And we are turning over every stone to ensure that we have enough of all of these things for as long as we need. We are still not satisfied with our supply of gowns. But we are sourcing more almost every day, and we certainly have enough for the time being.

After a wet and windy Monday, the sun is out again.

How do we put into words what your work means to the 2,400 patients you have healed and successfully discharged from our hospitals? Or what your work means to their family members, friends, and other loved ones? How do we put into words the compassion, and kindness, and care that you have shown to those we haven't been able to save? Sometimes words aren't enough.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,955 COVID-19 positive patients in our hospitals. That included 453 patients in our ICUs. We had another 156 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

## **Updates to the Visitor Policy**

The State of New York recently issued new guidance regarding visitors, and we have updated our policies accordingly. You can find more information [here](#).

## **PPE Update**

In addition to the new gown I mentioned yesterday, two more will be introduced this week. These have been evaluated as safe and effective by our infection-prevention, life-safety, and other clinical experts. You can find more information about them [here](#), and you can find information about all our PPE items [here](#).

## **New Ad Campaign**

There is a new ad campaign honoring members of our Mount Sinai family. The campaign, which you can see [here](#), is an acknowledgement of your heroism and your humanity.

## **Photographic Record**

There is also a new photo project capturing Mount Sinai during the pandemic, which you can see [here](#). We are continuing to collect additional photos [here](#) and hope you will share yours.

## **Extraordinary Contributions From Our Students**

I'd like to highlight the students of the Icahn School of Medicine, who together have volunteered thousands and thousands of hours in this humanitarian mission of our lifetimes. You can learn more about their extraordinary contributions [here](#).

## **Final Thought**

One month ago, I wrote this...

*"I want to end on this note. I know that many of you are managing disruption and anxiety in your home lives in addition to the challenges that you face at work. You have partners and spouses and friends who are facing economic distress, job loss, and illness. You have children home from closed schools, and they may be scared and confused. There is nothing easy about your work or home lives right now. We have to remember that, as hard as things are, and as hard as they become, we will get through this. The pandemic will end. We will get back to normal. In the meantime, let's remember to take the best care of each other that we possibly can. Each and every act of kindness and patience and decency will make us more resilient in the coming days."*

It all remains true. Even more so, we have grown closer together as a family. We are more trusting of each other. We are more forgiving of each other's faults and mistakes. We are quicker to ask for and to offer help.

And we are another month closer to being on the other side of all this.

It is the honor of my life to be your colleague and to wear the Mount Sinai Badge with you.

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