

# COVID-19 Health System Updates

April 24, 2020, Friday

A colleague sent me this note highlighting the painstaking and tireless work behind the scenes of members of our Mount Sinai family who make sure that we always have enough of the personal protective equipment (PPE) and other vital supplies to keep you and your patients safe:

*I wanted to share some of the hard work of my colleagues that may understandably be unnoticed:*

*Every day a team of people from Legal, Population Health, and Strategic Initiatives support the supply chain teams to find PPE that our traditional sources are not currently able to provide us. This has included the work of over 24 medical school student volunteers, who, under the leadership of Sally Engelman, have sifted through 4,152 offers that we have received to date (only 2,202 more offers to go). These teams have successfully secured millions of masks, gowns, face shields, and gloves, often working past midnight to negotiate with vendors and shipping companies across Asia.*

*This Mount Sinai team has also been working hard to diversify our sourcing of medical supplies, and has seized upon the amazing emergence of companies pivoting into the space. We now source face shields from Bushwick, Brooklyn, and have helped dozens of small businesses across the tri-state area secure contracts and financing to expand their teams and meet the demand of our supply consumption.*

*Also worth noting are the team members in the finance department that come into the office from far and wide to cut payroll and pay vendors each week. These checks are the lifeblood of the families and small businesses that rely upon timely payment.*

*But most notably, I'd like to highlight the incredible work of the supply chain, procurement, and materials management teams. Enough cannot be said of the tireless work they have done to make sure the hospital system continues to run, and our team and patients have all of the necessary supplies. They have opened and staffed new warehouses for the tremendous volume of supplies we go through every day. They have ensured that the 100,000s of masks and gowns, and millions of gloves we consume each week remain in stock and on hand just in time. This requires staffing the facilities every day, all day and night, to replenish the*

*stock rooms and receive shipments arriving from Shanghai, Da Nang ... and even Islip.*

I think it so perfectly captures how we are all connected in this mission. How, in our greatest moment of need, we removed the walls that separate us, and came together to take care of each other and our communities.

Arthur Ashe once wrote, “True heroism is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.”

What we are seeing across our vast Mount Sinai family is true heroism.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,118 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals. That is about a 2 percent reduction from the prior day. It included 297 patients in our ICUs. ICU patients peaked at 455 back on April 11. We had another 131 inpatients under investigation (PUIs). Yesterday also marked our lowest number of fatalities since March 28.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Each Wednesday, a group of Broadway actors, singers, and other performers will come together to support and uplift Mount Sinai health care heroes—you all—with a video playlist titled “Songs for Mount Sinai.” Each playlist is a variety show of vocal, instrumental, and dance performances, comedic skits, poetry readings, and direct messages—all dedicated to our tireless team. “Songs for Mount Sinai” videos [are available](#) on our Mount Sinai YouTube channel.

### **“Be Prepared” for Cookies**

The Girl Scouts’ motto is “be prepared,” and Troop 3302 of the Girl Scouts of Greater New York is helping us do just that. Through the daughter of one of our colleagues, Troop 3302 made the incredibly generous gesture of using proceeds from this year’s cookie sales to buy cookies for Mount Sinai staff, coordinating the delivery of more than 10,000 boxes of cookies across the city. Thank you so much to all the members of Troop 3302.





**Final Thought**

A colleague of ours, Gali Halevi, shared this video tribute to you from Lior Raz, star and co-creator of the Netflix series "Fouda." You can find it [here](#). Thank you to Gali and to Lior. We are very grateful.

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