

COVID-19 Health System Updates

April 13 2020, Monday

Throughout this pandemic, I have promised you transparency and honesty. That includes being honest about setbacks we encounter along the way, which is what I want to do today.

The first is that our inpatient COVID-19 census actually increased a bit over the weekend. This was a small change in volume but an increase nonetheless. We are not seeing a significant uptick in admissions, however, so this was most likely due to a relatively light number of discharges over the weekend. We should catch up now that the week has started and will keep a close eye on this.

The second relates to our personal protective equipment. In the early phase of this pandemic, our biggest concern was sourcing enough N-95 respirators. As I have mentioned in some prior notes, we have met with considerable success in that area, as well as in sourcing face shields, surgical masks, and gloves. We have not been quite as successful in sourcing gowns. We definitely have enough gowns to keep you safe for now, and we are doing everything possible to make sure that we have enough for the duration of this mission no matter how long it lasts. But we are not out of the woods yet on this one.

On a related note, this week you may see some gowns that you are unfamiliar with. These have been evaluated as safe and effective by our infection prevention, life safety, and other clinical experts. There is information about them [here](#), and you can find information about all the PPE that is currently in use around the system [here](#).

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,962 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals. That included 452 patients in our ICUs. We had another 127 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY

There is a brief new message, [here](#), that offers guidance on dealing with the unknown. In many ways we are in uncharted territory. We are heartened that our patient volumes have stabilized and in knowing that we are helping so many to recover. Yet, in all aspects of our lives, we still face uncertainty. We will continue to see both progress and setbacks as we work our way back to normal. Managing through uncertainty can be aided by using a number of tips found in this new message.

HOUSING AND HOTELS FOR OUR MOUNT SINAI FAMILY

Through the Bone Marrow & Cancer Foundation (BMCF) and AirBnB Open Homes program, Mount Sinai health care workers and first responders have been offered free accommodations for this month. These offers are in addition to the many other hotel accommodations that were previously announced in Dr. Davis's emails. You can find more information on the Employee Resources site under [HR Information's Hotel Accommodations for Mount Sinai Employees](#) section, and on the Well-Being Basic Needs page under [Housing and Accommodations](#).

THANKS TO YOU...

Yesterday, to recognize your work, compassion, and dedication, as well as that of your loved ones who make your work possible, we said "thank you" in a full-page ad in *The New York Times Magazine*. It ran yesterday, and this is what it looked like:



FINAL THOUGHT

I hope you will turn up the volume on your phone or computer and watch [this slideshow](#) of "What N.Y.C. Sounds Like Every Night at 7." Across the five boroughs, your neighbors are clapping, banging pots and pans, and celebrating you and your work each night. The world continues to recognize your heroism, and it is the honor of my life to wear the Mount Sinai badge along with you.

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