

COVID-19 Health Systems Update

April 16, 2020 Thursday

No matter our individual roles, the resilience of our Health System relies on all of us working together.

What does it look like when people from all over Mount Sinai come together as one?

Emily Gallagher, MD, who was recently redeployed to a new team, shared the following:

I'm not sure who to give good feedback to regarding redeployment, but I figured you would know who to pass this on to.

I've been on my new unit since Saturday, and I cannot in any way do justice to how incredible everyone is on that floor.

I don't think it's fair to name specific people, because honestly everyone I've seen working there is just fantastic.

The business associate is picking up the phone constantly, and patiently and kindly talking with understandably stressed family members, helping the disorientated redeployed people like us get stuff we've forgotten when we can't go behind the lines in our extended-wear PPE, and telling us who is who, and where to find things.

The nurses are so tolerant of the new teams every few days, and are so kind and helpful to the patients (and to us). They are also patiently fielding calls from family members throughout the day, while completely selflessly taking care of the patients. I'm not sure if all of the nurses are the usual staff on my unit, but if they are not, I would never have guessed. I see them jumping in to help each other out, and to help us.

The atmosphere amongst the nurses is amazing; they are the ones who give the floor such a nice feeling of collegiality. When you see them taking care of the patients, you would never know that COVID can be a deadly disease, or that they are at risk of getting sick as much as anyone else. They are there in their PPE with the patients for as long as it takes to take care of what needs to be done, sometimes, as today, that can literally be hours, putting themselves at risk for the good of the patients. Every single patient on the floor tells me how amazing they are.

The redeployed physicians and NPs I've worked with have also been just fantastic. Two interns were called in from "vacation" over the weekend. Both of them had such a great attitude that I honestly would never have thought they had been called in to cover someone else. The NPs slotted into the team seamlessly, and were also so positive and enthusiastic, despite being thrown into something they don't normally do or have a lot of experience with.

I overhear the other teams, and everyone's attitude is just so great. There is good humor, and patience, and kindness all over the place.

It's honestly an amazing thing to see.

It is impossible to read that and not feel an overwhelming sense of pride. The support and kindness we show one another matters, and is often what helps us make it through these difficult days.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,841 COVID-19 positive patients in our hospitals. That is the lowest number since April 4. It included 455 patients in our ICUs. We had another 130 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

New York Times Report on Temporary Hospital in Central Park

I want to share [this story from The New York Times](#) highlighting the work happening in Central Park. Even as high winds and torrential rain barreled into the city on Monday, clinicians and support staff tended to patients and continued to provide much-needed support and extra space for our patients in need. So far, the tent hospital has cared for 125 of our patients and fellow New Yorkers.

Final Thought

Dale Candela, a Nurse Educator in the Mount Sinai West Neurology Department, shared this quote from the poem "Invitation" by Mary Oliver:

"believe us, they say,
it is a serious thing
just to be alive
on this fresh morning
in the broken world."

God bless you all.
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