

COVID-19 Health System Updates

April 27, 2020, Monday

As the number of patients with COVID-19 infection in our hospitals continues to decrease, you may notice that we still aren't seeing a lot of non-COVID-19 patients yet. There are several reasons for this.

One is that many in the community with other serious illnesses don't feel safe coming to emergency rooms out of fear of contracting COVID-19. Our emergency rooms are much calmer now and we need to reassure members of our communities that patients with serious illness should not stay away if it means that their health will be put at even greater risk by not seeking care.

Another reason is that we haven't yet reopened all of the services we were providing before the pandemic arrived on our shores. Now that our inpatient capacity is recovering, we are working hard to bring these services back, or to scale them back up, at the appropriate pace and in collaboration with the Governor's and Department of Health's guidelines and mandates.

Why am I telling you this? Because I want you to know that we will work our way back to normal.

COVID-19-related deployments will end. Residencies and fellowships will revert back to routine activities. And research labs will reopen.

We won't flip a switch and revert to normal operations all at once. We can anticipate that this will be a gradual and phased process. And much will depend on COVID-19 infection rates from this point forward. But we will get there. Of that I have no doubt.

This new phase that we are in—between the prior intensity of almost overwhelming COVID-19 patient volumes and the future return to normal volumes of non-COVID-19 care—can feel strange and anxiety-provoking for sure. I know I feel it. Transitions have a tendency to do that. The important thing to remember is that these feelings are normal and that they too will pass. And now is a good time to remind you that we have extensive [well-being resources](#) available to you. I hope you will take advantage of them. We owe it to ourselves and to each other to take good care of ourselves.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,161 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals. That represents a 4 percent reduction from the day before. It included 312 patients in our ICUs. We had another 149 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

On-the-Ground Support

If you click on [this link](#) you can learn about some on-the-ground support offerings that are designed to make it easier for you to access—including snack and well-being stations.

All-In for Mount Sinai

This past weekend, the Discovery Channel hosted a virtual poker tournament on our behalf featuring many celebrities. From Chip and Joanna Gaines to Bobby Flay and Guy Fieri, our line-up brought in \$1,170,086 to support our COVID-19 mission. Thanks to all who joined.

Final Thought

I want to share this thank-you tribute to all of you from a patient who recently gave birth at Mount Sinai West. It features the cast of the North American tour of “Les Misérables,” of which her husband is a member. Click [here](#) and be transported.

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