COVID-19 Health System Updates

May 8, 2020 Friday

Here is an interesting finding. Governor Cuomo announced COVID-19 antibody testing results from a survey of 27,000 health care workers conducted across 25 health care facilities in our region of the state. The percentage of health care workers who tested positive was substantially lower than the percentage of people in the general population who tested positive. For example, in New York City 12.2 percent of health care workers tested positive, compared with 19.9 percent of people in the general population who tested positive.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 664 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals. That included 185 patients in our ICUs. We had another 104 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

Here is an update on our inpatient COVID-19 trend:

Our New Safety Hub
Yesterday, we launched a “safety hub” on our website, where we will document all the things we are doing to keep our patients and staff safe. We know that many patients—and even many of us—feel anxious about exposure to COVID-19, and that this anxiety is causing some patients to put off needed care. Through the Safety Hub, we intend to address and work to allay those fears and show Mount Sinai’s commitment to the health and safety of all.

Along similar lines, we have established an email address, safetyhub@mountsinai.org, where you can send specific questions that you or your patients might have and receive a quick answer. Your safety, and the safety of your patients is our very highest priority. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to reach out.
“Don’t Put Your Health Care On Hold”
Starting today, Mount Sinai will be running a TV ad campaign to address three patient concerns: safety, access to physicians, and timing for resuming health care visits. We want patients to know that Mount Sinai is here for them, providing excellent health care through both telemedicine and in-person visits, and that we have their safety in mind. We want to reinforce the message that they should not keep putting their health care on hold. You can see the ads here.

COVID Memories
We’d like to share another reminder about our system for cataloging your anecdotes, memories, photos, and documents related to our work fighting this pandemic. You can use this direct link to submit material into the system’s portal. To submit questions to our archivists, please use the covidmemories@mountsinai.org address.

Final Thought
Starting next week, in recognition of our tremendous progress in this mission, the frequency of these updates will be reduced from five days each week to three days (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday). As we transition to our new normal of both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 care, it continues to be the honor of my lifetime to be your colleague and to wear the Mount Sinai badge.

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