

# COVID-19, RSV, and Flu Updates, February 14

February 24, 2023, Tuesday

You may have seen over the weekend that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) no longer requires face masks in hospitals and other health care facilities. But as is true of so many things during this pandemic, it's not that simple.

The NYSDOH also recommends that health care organizations follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and continue masking when there are high levels of transmission—as is the case in our area. Therefore, like many other health care facilities in New York, for now, **we will retain our current masking policy, which requires that all patients, staff, and visitors wear masks in areas where patients may be present.** This decision comes after reviewing the guidance from the CDC, assessing our current situation, and thinking carefully about the safety of our patients, employees, faculty, students, and community.

As always, we will continue to review the data around transmission rates, community levels, and local, state, and national recommendations. We will update you when things change, as we know they often do. And you can always find our latest policies [here](#).

What hasn't changed, thankfully, is that the numbers for COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and flu continue to drop. As of this morning, we had 99 patients with COVID-19, with 9 in critical care. When I wrote you in January, we had 163 patients with COVID-19, so this shows major progress. As of this morning, we had 2 inpatients with RSV and 4 with flu.

It's encouraging to see such progress, though I know it can be difficult for those of you who are closest to our patients and who have been at this a long time to feel that progress. As always, we hope if you need any support, you will access the many health and [well-being](#) resources Mount Sinai offers. I could not be more grateful for all you do, every day, to provide safe and compassionate care to our patients and to each other.

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