



# COVID-19 Headlines

April 6, 2020

## ■ COVID-19 TESTING OF SYMPTOMATIC EMPLOYEES

Starting tomorrow, April 7, we are implementing **new testing procedures for any Mount Sinai employee with symptoms consistent with COVID-19**. If you develop these symptoms, we would like to test for this viral infection using the PCR test with a nasopharyngeal swab within a few days of the onset of your symptoms. This will provide guidance to you and to Employee Health Services. If you were symptomatic prior to April 7, we would like to test you for COVID-19 infection using the serum antibody test. This will provide guidance to you on whether you did have COVID-19 infection, as well as whether you are a candidate to provide a plasma donation to help others. The serum antibody test is most accurate about 21 days after the onset of your symptoms. Donation would, of course, be voluntary. Further details and instructions on all of these testing procedures can be found on the updated employee website [here](#).

## ■ MENTAL HEALTH LIAISONS

We have begun to roll out dedicated **Mental Health Liaisons (MHLs) for the EDs, ICUs, and COVID units** across the Mount Sinai Health System. MHLs—psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health counselors, and social workers—will be available confidentially by text, phone, and email. They will also hold regular support groups both virtually and in person when possible. So far, we have assigned 55 MHLs across 30 units and will continue to assign MHLs for as many units as possible over this coming week. You can expect to hear from an MHL soon, and in the coming days we will be updating our website with more information. We'll let you know when that's available. This is in addition to the many other mental health and well-being resources that can be found [here](#) on our COVID-19 Employee Resources [website](#).