

COVID-19 Health System Updates

March 19 2020, Thursday

Predictive models suggest that the number of COVID-19 cases here in our region is likely to grow for the next 45 days or so before tapering off. We are working to build new capacity in our health system to meet the growing demand. And the city, state, and federal governments are mobilizing to help. As an example, just yesterday it was announced that the USS Comfort, a floating hospital capable of treating 1,000 patients at a time, will be brought to New York Harbor to help. Regulations are also being modified to make it easy for doctors and other clinical staff to cross state boundaries to pitch in. These are encouraging developments.

Here in our own Health System, we need to mobilize each and every member of the Mount Sinai family to aid in the fight. No matter your current role, no matter your job title, no matter your location, you will have a critical role to play in helping Mount Sinai save as many lives as possible and in providing aid and comfort to our communities and our colleagues. Whether you are at the front lines in the fight, or helping to supply the front lines, or fielding calls from frightened and isolated members of our communities, or participating in one of the many other jobs that are needed, you are absolutely vital. Stay tuned to this channel for more information in the days ahead.

Here are the latest stats on where things stand: As of yesterday afternoon, there were 83 COVID-19-positive inpatients in our hospitals, and 27 of those patients were in ICUs. There were an additional 172 patients under investigation (PUI).

Guide to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Practices

Yesterday we sent you a new PPE guide to help you know what equipment to wear and when. New updates have been made to that document, which can be found [here](#).

New Parking Policy

Daily parking for staff at many of our sites is now free. Information can be found [here](#).

Updates to Lectures, Events, and Meetings Policy

Effective today, Thursday, March 19, we are expanding our restrictions on lectures, events, and meetings. Information can be found [here](#) (click this link and then click on "Lectures, Events and Meetings Policy").

The reality of COVID-19 in the region is settling in; it is here, and it is serious. Every community we serve is now impacted. Our nearly 50,000-person-strong Mount Sinai family will work as one to see this through.