

COVID-19 Health System Updates

March 20 2020, Friday

Personal protective equipment is the lifeblood of a pandemic fight. I am seeing a massive response to our efforts to acquire as much of it as we will need. Everyone is stepping up. Members of our Boards of Trustees are using every available relationship to find solutions, and we are already seeing significant donations as a result of those efforts. Our connections to companies and hospitals in China are helping us identify additional sources. Our city and state leaders are using every mechanism available. And most recently, the companies in China that were shut down while they fought COVID-19 were reopened and are now mass-producing what we need. It is important that you know we are doing everything possible—and I mean everything—on this front so that you can support your patients and communities.

In addition, the city and state continue to make measures to reduce the spread and flatten the curve. Governor Cuomo just announced that he is requiring 75 percent of employees in nonessential businesses to work from home—a positive step in reducing density and promoting distancing. This is a welcome development.

For Mount Sinai, our testing capacity is expanding significantly as well. As we work to bring all of our COVID-19 testing in-house, results are coming back faster, which will help us move patients appropriately and create more space in our hospitals for additional patients in need.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 151 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals. That includes 38 patients in our ICUs, with another 155 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

Employee Resource Website

Our COVID-19 [employee resource website](#) was recently overhauled and is now live. It is much more navigable and contains additional resources to answer your questions. You are one click away—with no password or intranet access required.

Broadcast This Saturday

This Saturday, I will send you a special edition of my morning update asking you to go to our webpage and register for the fight. There will be important ways to contribute, and we will need everyone, so please look out for that communication this weekend.

New Guidance on Mental Health Self-Care

There is a new letter up on the employee resource website that I hope you will take a few minutes to read. It provides useful advice from our experts on what you can do to stay mentally strong and focused throughout this crisis. I haven't met too many people who aren't struggling in one way or another with the enormity of what we are facing. This guidance can make a difference. It can be found [here](#).

Donation Information

There has been an outpouring of people wanting to donate goods or money to Mount Sinai during this crisis. If you are receiving calls or emails about donations, please contact Development at DevMSHS@mountsinai.org.

Monetary donations can be made online to the special COVID-19 fund by clicking [here](#).

Appreciation Video

I also want to draw your attention to [a special message](#) to health care workers from some of New York's most famous. The world continues to recognize your heroism.

One last message for today. What we've weathered—and overcome—so far is just the beginning. We know this already has been and will be an arduous journey in the days and weeks to come. But at this moment in human history, we remember why we went into health care in the first place: to make a difference. Every one of us, no matter who you are or what you do, is playing a critical role in saving our fellow New Yorkers. In this all-hands-on-deck moment, we are going to continue to be challenged, personally and professionally. But we are going to forge ahead and succeed in this fight ... together.