

COVID-19 Health System Updates

March 24 2020, Tuesday

As COVID-19 spreads, New York State is now home to 5 percent of all cases worldwide—recently topping 20,000. But critically, city and state preparation has advanced. Yesterday, Governor Cuomo toured the Javits Center, which will be transformed over the next 7-10 days into a 1,000-bed hospital. This, and the USS Comfort and other measures, will give our city important capacity at a time when we need it most. Governor Cuomo is ordering hospitals to increase capacity by at least 50 percent—something that the Mount Sinai Health System has committed to and has already been working toward.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 393 COVID-19 positive patients in our hospitals. That includes 89 patients in our ICUs. We had another 91 inpatients under investigation (PUIs). We had 60 open ICU beds.

The coming days will be critical to flattening the curve for the weeks ahead, and as Drs. Davis and Charney have noted, we're going to need all hands on deck to fight back against COVID-19. Thank you to all those who signed up for COVID-19 roles, and if you haven't already, please click [here](#) to play an important part. Remember that you don't need a clinical background to save lives and take part in the fight. We have many mission-critical jobs in this battle that don't require any clinical training at all.

Today, we have several important additional updates for you.

Updates to Visitation Policy

Due to the escalating COVID-19 emergency, we are prohibiting all visitors across the Mount Sinai Health System. This includes visitors to the emergency departments, inpatient units, ambulatory sites, and other facilities, and includes the partners of our obstetrics patients. We are implementing these policies across our sites today. Please visit [here](#) for more information and limited exceptions to this policy.

We realize this will be particularly difficult for those within our OB units, because we know how important it is to have loved ones nearby during and after delivery of a child. We would never take these steps unless we were confident that it was the right thing to do to protect our patients and their families.

Launching Sinai KIDS

We know that child care has become a challenge to members of our Mount Sinai family due to school and daycare closings. We are launching **Sinai KIDS**, a digital hub where

you can access child care services, offer child care services to those in need, and learn about community-based child care/enrichment opportunities that may be available to you. In an effort to make this opportunity available to you as soon as possible, we are simultaneously opening up the system for both enrollment of child care providers and those who are looking for child care to begin their search. Initially, there will be few child care providers, but we anticipate the list to grow quickly, so please check back frequently. For more information about Sinai KIDS and other child care programs available to Mount Sinai employees, please visit [this page](#) on the employee resources website, scroll down until you see Sinai KIDS, and then click.

Palliative Care Guidance for Front-Line Caregivers

There is a new hotline available 24/7 to speak with palliative care experts. They can advise you regarding difficult goals-of-care discussions and decisions and complex symptom management. The number is 332-215-3020. More information can be found [here](#) (click and scroll down to “Palliative Care Guidance”) on the [employee resources website](#).

Where to Send Your Ideas and Questions

So many of you have come up with ideas for how we can do better in this fight. Please keep those ideas coming. You can use the same email address that you have been using to send us questions: CovidQuestions@mountsinai.org

I want to say again that I am proud to be your colleague and honored to work with all of you. While the coming days and weeks may be the most challenging of our lives, we are going to be successful if we stand together.