

COVID-19 Health System Updates

March 25 2020, Wednesday

Yesterday, Governor Cuomo provided revised estimates regarding COVID-19 growth. Based on the current rate of spread, even though the vast majority of infected patients will have mild disease, the number of patients with severe enough illness to need hospitalization and ICU-level care is expected to rise faster than our ability to fully meet the demand.

In the face of that reality, it is critical to remember that our entire Mount Sinai family—and especially our nurses, doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, patient care associates, respiratory therapists, and other front-line providers—will be literally saving more lives than they have ever had the opportunity to save before.

This is the humanitarian mission of our lifetimes.

And we won't win every battle. There will be loss, and suffering, and at times perhaps each of us will question our will to fight.

But then we will remember all the lives we can save, all the comfort we can provide, and all the good we can do.

And that we are all in this together.

Updates

As of yesterday afternoon we had 613 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals. That includes 123 patients in our ICUs. We had another 76 inpatients under investigation (PUIs). We had 60 open ICU beds. We are working to open additional units as fast as possible and we are working to figure out if it is possible to use each of our ventilators to support more than one patient at a time.

COVID Plasma Needed

Patients recently recovered from COVID-19 have high levels of immunity in the form of antibodies in their blood that can be transfused into very sick COVID-19 patients in our hospitals. This treatment is known as “human convalescent plasma” and has been used in previous pandemics. We are ready to start treating patients later this week, but need your help.

If you have recently recovered from COVID-19, please volunteer to have your blood tested to see if you have high levels of antibodies. If your antibody levels are high, we will work with you to see if you are both willing and qualified to donate plasma at a

nearby blood donation center. You could save a life. If you can help, please email us at COVIDSerumTesting@mountsinai.org.

Updated PPE Guide

The guide on personal protective equipment has been updated and can be found [here](#) on the [employee resources website](#).

Parking

If you are parking at meters close to our hospitals, please put a photocopy of your Mount Sinai ID atop your dashboard. This will let any parking enforcement know that you are working in an essential and critical capacity.

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.

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