

COVID-19 Health System Updates

March 30, 2020, Monday

I want to give you an update on our Personal Protective Equipment. As I mentioned last week, we are meeting with success in getting more of it. It is a 24/7 relentless effort. Some of what we are getting in will look unfamiliar to you because we are sourcing from multiple manufacturers. In order to make sure that what we put in the field is safe, we need to send it for testing at certified laboratories. Just yesterday, one of your colleagues dropped everything he was doing to drive out to the laboratory in Ohio in order to bring samples of the recent mask arrivals there for expedited testing. He didn't want to risk late arrival by the mail system or the possibility of a lost package. Behind the scenes there are so many similar stories of people going above and beyond to support our front-line teams. It is important that you know that.

And on those front-lines, the work has only been getting harder. My heart breaks for everyone struggling to keep up with the volume of critically ill, and near-critically ill patients. This week you will see others joining the fight. We are meeting with success in sourcing additional clinical and support staff and will be deploying them where needed most. I hope you will welcome your new colleagues as members of our family and let them take as much of the burden as they can.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 1,249 COVID-19 positive patients in our hospitals. That included 233 patients in our ICUs. We had another 135 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

Last week, we mentioned a treatment that we are spearheading—called human convalescent plasma—and we told you about the extraordinary response when hundreds of you stepped forward to help. As you know, the cutting-edge approach transfuses antibodies from those who were previously infected to those COVID-19 patients who are sick. You can read more about Mount Sinai's leading role in this [here](#).

Keeping Your Loved Ones Safe

If you have questions about how to protect your families from COVID-19, and what proper practices to employ when you return home after treating patients, we have a new resource, which can be found [here](#).

Information About New Ventilators

We continue to make progress in securing the tools we need to win the fight against COVID-19, including many new respiratory devices and ventilators. They won't all look

familiar so, in addition to training and orientation to the new devices, we have posted a reference sheet and an education packet on our resources site [here](#), under the “Information about Ventilators” tab.

Statewide “PAUSE”

With the pandemic continuing to escalate, Governor Cuomo announced this weekend that the statewide “PAUSE” currently in place, which directs all nonessential workers to work from home, will be extended to April 15.

Your Commute

The MTA has implemented the “[NY Essential Service Plan](#)” so that essential personnel like you have the transportation you need at critical times. But changes in public ridership may trigger the MTA to reduce schedules on some subway, bus, and rail service. Please be aware that the MTA may make continuous adjustments to its service, and any service reductions could potentially affect and lengthen your commute. If you need more information, please click [here](#).

Final Thought

I have been receiving a lot of inspiring emails from members of our Mount Sinai family. This one arrived yesterday from Joseph Uhl, who normally works in our planning and development office but has been deployed to an engineering role at one of our hospitals to help in this fight.

Dr. LoPachin,

Thanks for the support—count me in! I know a little about humanitarian operations participating in the support of the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 in New Orleans, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti with the U.S. Navy.

Unlike Operation Iraqi Freedom, this effort has the support of all. It doesn’t matter what country you’re from, nationality, race, religion, or political beliefs.

It’s just humans taking care of other humans who need help.

We can succeed “together” and ensure Mount Sinai is the “Tip of the Spear” throughout this difficult duration.

Joseph Uhl
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