

COVID-19 Health System Updates

May 4, 2020, Monday

The overall trends continue to move in the right direction, and our COVID-19 hospitalizations are well under half of what they were at the peak. We continue to be in good shape on PPE and other supplies. It is such a relief to see our care ratios returning to pre-COVID levels.

Now that the surge in COVID hospital admissions is reaching manageable levels, we will stop admitting new patients to the Central Park field hospital as of today. We anticipate that it will take about two weeks to treat the patients currently there and subsequently decontaminate and remove the tents. The Samaritan's Purse staff will also wind down their support of Mount Sinai Beth Israel over the next two weeks. So far, the teams from Samaritan's Purse have cared for more than 300 of our patients, and they have saved many, many lives. In another ray of hope, the last patient seen at the Javits Center, who came from Mount Sinai, was discharged on Friday.

One note of concern is that some people in our communities aren't doing quite as well with social distancing as they were even a few weeks ago. I hope you will help continue to get the message out about how important this is to preventing a second wave of infections.

Governor Cuomo announced yesterday that a consortium of eastern states, including New York, will work together to jointly purchase and allocate PPE, tests, ventilators, and other medical equipment. With a regionalized approach, states in this consortium will have stronger buying power and hopefully more reliable access to PPE and supplies from across the globe. He also announced that hospitals in the state will need to carry a 90-day supply of PPE on an ongoing basis.

As of yesterday afternoon, we had 815 COVID-19-positive patients in our hospitals (a 4 percent decrease from the prior day). That included 247 patients in our ICUs. We had another 167 inpatients under investigation (PUIs).

New Wellness Letter

There is a very useful new [wellness letter](#) on the COVID-19 [Employee Resources website](#). It turns out that there are common reasons why we don't always seek out support, even when we need it. This letter addresses those reasons and helps dispel some myths and misperceptions. I think you will find it worth your time to read.

New Gowns

Thanks to the tireless work of many, we have seven new gowns that will be in use at our hospitals. They have been validated as safe and effective by our infection

prevention, life safety, and other clinical experts. You can find information on them [here](#).

Final Thought

Here is something worth sharing.

Jamieson Webster, a clinical psychologist, volunteered to help at Mount Sinai Brooklyn through the NYC Medical Reserve Corps. She was [recognized yesterday](#) as a *New York Post* “Hero of the Day.”

An excerpt:

The hospital needed someone who could speak with families and connect them to their ailing loved ones in the last moments of their life amid the coronavirus pandemic.

But no one else had applied—so she did.

*“I thought, no one will do this if I don’t do it, so what do I do?” Webster, 40, told *The Post*.*

“I can’t imagine in this situation if there’s an actual need not filling it,” added the Brooklynite, who’d been checking the MRC’s website every day for openings. “I would risk my life because it feels like a call of duty.”

Vicki R. LoPachin, MD, MBA
Senior Vice President
Chief Medical Officer
Mount Sinai Health System