

COVID-19 Update

Monday, April 6, 2020

"I want to give you from my heart, my gratitude, my appreciation, which I know is felt by families all over and by first responders. Someone sent me a clip of firefighters giving a siren applause to Jacobi Hospital for the lives that they have saved. I hear it and I hope you hear it at 7 p.m. every night, the people of New York applauding for all of you. It is an amazing testament to the work that you are doing and I am so very grateful."

-- **Dr. Mitch Katz, President of NYC Health + Hospitals** in live webinar to staff

In today's COVID-19 Alert, Dr. Katz hosted a **live webinar** where he took questions from staff, a text messaging **COVID-19 symptom monitoring system for patients**, and details on how to access the NYC Health + Hospitals **COVID-19 Guidance and Resources page** through the internet.

Dr. Katz Addresses Staff in Live Webinar

In a live webinar to staff this morning, Dr. Katz delivered a sober message about the challenges facing NYC Health + Hospitals as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread and devastate. He also shared heartfelt gratitude for the heroic and brave health care professionals in our health system, and provided an update about the comprehensive efforts underway to secure more trained staff, PPE, and hospital beds to bring some relief to the front line workers. If you missed the webinar, you can now access the entire presentation and watch at your convenience. If you missed the webinar, you can watch the video by [Clicking here](#). Or listen to the [audio file](#).



[Click here to view Dr. Allen's message to staff](#)

"Stay-at-Home" Symptom Monitoring Program

NYC Health + Hospitals has launched a text messaging COVID-19 symptom monitoring system for patients who are in isolation. Patients discharged home with potential, suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection are eligible to sign up to receive daily or twice daily text messages that allows them to report severity of symptoms. When patients report worsening symptoms, the system will trigger a call back from a provider. The text messaging system is available in English and Spanish. [Click here to review guidance for providers on how to enroll patients](#).

Expedited EMS Handoff for Low Acuity Patients

NYC Health + Hospitals has established a new ambulance handoff process to help our partners in the FDNY and EMS who are experiencing record surges in 911 call volume due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the help of a newly designated worker in each Emergency Department, we will now be able to process low acuity patients faster and allow the EMS crews to more efficiently depart and move on to their next assignment in the field when they are most needed. [Click here to view the ED guidance brief for EMS handoff for low acuity patients](#).

COVID-19 Guidance and Resource Page Now Available on the Internet

You no longer need to be logged in to the NYC Health + Hospitals network to access the latest clinical guidance, employee resources or materials for patients and community. The NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 Guidance and Resource intranet page for employees is now available through the Employee Self Serve application and accessible to all staff from any personal computer or device. Visit the [COVID-19 Guidance and Resource](#) page regularly to stay connected and stay informed.

In the News

- [NYPost](#) - Over 300 federal health-care workers join NYC's battle against coronavirus
- [Becker's Hospital Review](#) - NYC Health + Hospitals to Bring on More Than 3,000 Additional Inpatient Beds by May
- [Cheddar.com](#) - NYC ER Doctor Fears to Mental Health of Frontline Coronavirus Medical Workers
- [NY Daily News](#), [QNS.com](#), [The CITY](#) - Public Health System Announces Strategy to Triple ICU Bed Capacity
- [News12.com](#) - Dr. Eric Wei Discusses Public Health System's COVID-19 Response

If you have questions, write to us at COVID-19Readiness@nychhc.org - our Special Pathogens and Emergency Response colleagues will be available to help.

Other resources:

[Evidence Digest](#)

[NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 Guidance & Resources](#)

[NYC Department of Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Stay Home To Stop the Spread of Coronavirus](#)

For the latest news on COVID-19, follow [@NYCHealthSystem](#) on social media.



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