

COVID-19 Update

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

"The no visitor restrictions during the COVID-19 surge was one of the most heartbreaking aspects of this pandemic. We understand how the support of a loved one can help ease some of the anxieties common within hospitals. We're looking forward to easing the restrictions on visitors and getting back to some normalcy in our hospitals."

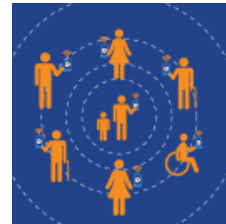
-- Eric Wei, MD, MBA

Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer

In this COVID-19 Update, some of our new **Contact Tracers** fighting the spread of COVID-19, more about how our EDs and ambulatory care clinics are **safely welcoming back patients**, and lifting restrictions on **hospital visitation**.

Hero of the Day: Our Contact Tracers

A cadre of talented, passionate and trained professionals committed to improving public health -- many from NYC neighborhoods hardest hit by COVID-19 -- have joined NYC Health + Hospitals to serve as Contact Tracers under the NYC Test & Trace Corps. Their mission: to support New Yorkers who test positive for COVID-19 and identify their close contacts to help prevent the spread of the virus. [Meet some of our Contact Tracers.](#)



Re-engineering EDs and Clinics to Provide Safe Care After COVID-19

11 NYC Health + Hospitals EDs will undergo physical changes to maximize distance between patients in waiting rooms and care areas. New spaces for isolation and negative pressure rooms will be created to help protect from infections like COVID-19. Out-patient clinics will increase their capacity with telehealth and limited in-person care visits. ORs will increase capacity to perform a higher number of scheduled medically necessary surgeries for existing patients. [Read the press announcement.](#)

Hospital Visitors Now Welcome, With Limits

Starting today, NYC Health + Hospitals will ease restrictions on visitations in all of its 11 hospitals for the first time since the COVID-19 peak. Visits at each of the hospitals will be limited to just one visitor at a time per patient for four hours a day. Patients in all departments of the hospitals will be allowed visitors. Visitors will be advised to perform meticulous hand hygiene, be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and undergo symptom and temperature checks upon entering the hospital. [Read the press announcement.](#)

In the News

- **Harlem World Magazine, NY1, Yahoo! News** - NYC Health + Hospitals Ease Restrictions on Visitors at All Hospitals for the First Time Since the COVID-19 Peak
 - **New York Daily News** - As Phase 2 of Reopening Gets Underway, NYC-Run Hospitals and Clinics Ready for More In-Person Visits
 - **CNBC– 1, CNBC– 2** - Jackie Bray Deputy Executive Director of Test & Trace Corps. Discusses Program's Roll Out
 - **NY1** - Kings County Gives Inside Look at How System's EDs Are Being Re-Engineered for the Post-COVID/Pre-Vaccine World
 - **HIT Consultant** - NYC Hospitals Leverage Taxi App to Transport Frontline Health Workers, Patients During COVID-19
 - **Medical Xpress** - Answering the Call: How COVID-19 Hotline Staffers Helped Panicked New Yorkers
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If you have questions, write to us at COVID-19Readiness@nychhc.org.

Other resources:

[Health Care Heroes page](#)

[Evidence Digest](#)

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

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



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