

COVID-19 Update

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

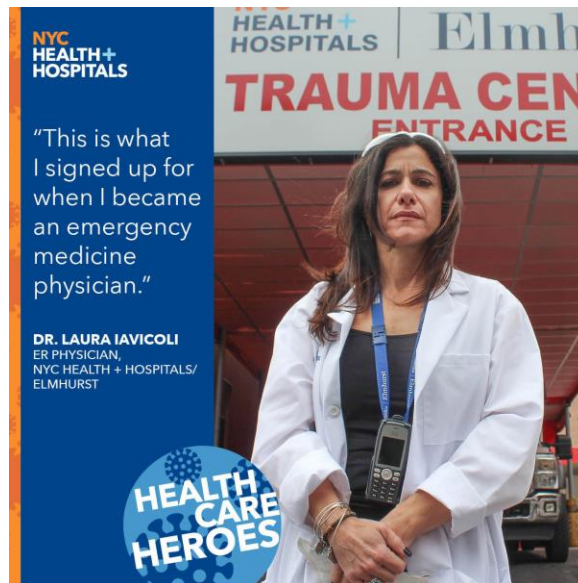
"Our staff are truly doing heroic work - particularly in our Emergency Departments and ICUs. This is what we trained for. This is what we prepared for. We stand ready to care for New Yorkers who need us most."

-- **Dr. Eric Wei, Chief Quality Officer, Emergency Medicine Physician**

In Today's **COVID-19 Update**, meet some of the the NYC Health + Hospitals **Health Care Heroes** behind this epidemic, learn more about the additional **beds and PPE relief** that's on the way, get up to date information about the **social services available to help patients** address the financial impact of this health care crisis, and listen to two of our **staff leaders on the radio**.

Meet Our Health Care Heroes!

In the face of a frightening pandemic and mounting uncertainty, NYC Health + Hospitals staff is showing remarkable courage. This week alone, doctors, nurses, managers, administrators and support staff have been working around the clock to manage ED patients, care for the severely ill, answer calls from anxious New Yorkers, and manage their own fears and anxiety. To honor them, we are launching a new campaign entitled "Health Care Heroes" -- dedicated to our outstanding staff -- the essential workers behind the COVID-19 epidemic.



- [View the Insider COVID-19 Special Edition.](#)
- [Check out one of our heroes on Instagram, Dr. Laura Iavicoli.](#)
- [Check out the NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln heroes on Twitter.](#)

More Hospital Beds, Supplies on the Way

NYC Health + Hospitals/Roosevelt Island - the new medical center for low acuity patients - will be ready to open the first 100 new beds this week to give our health system additional capacity to handle the surge in coronavirus cases and to make sure that everyone else who needs hospital care for other diseases and challenges will have support as well. The medical center will be opening another 240 beds in the next few weeks. New York City is receiving 400 ventilators from the federal stockpile -- 100 dedicated to NYC Health + Hospitals -- and has begun to distribute to all hospitals across the city some 200,000 N95 masks, 2 million surgical masks and 70,000 face shields. The mayor reported that

additional help is coming to NYC health care facilities from both the federal government and the State government, that includes 430,000 more surgical masks, 170,000 more N95 masks, 175,000 pairs of gloves, 98,000 face shields and 72,000 surgical gowns.

Helping Our Patients Access Social Services

As the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic deepens, NYC Health + Hospitals patients are likely to encounter new challenges in meeting their daily needs, like food and money for rent. Changes to regular operations of government and nongovernmental social services have made it harder to confidently refer to social services and benefits programs. We've created a new Intranet page to serve as a one-stop shop for updated social service information about food, cash assistance, legal assistance, and community and mental health support. [View the Intranet page here](#). Contact the Population Health Team at socialdeterminants@nychhc.org if you have any questions.

In the News

- **1010 WINS** - [Dr. Eric Wei Instructs New Yorkers to Stay Home Unless Symptoms are Severe](#)
- **National Public Radio** - [Israel Rocha on Elmhurst Hospital Plans to Increase Capacity](#)

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:

[Video Message from Mitch](#) - From March 13, 2020

[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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