



COVID-19 Update

Thursday, March 26, 2020

"Our health care community has never failed to rise to a challenge, no matter how difficult. On behalf of the entire Joint Commission Enterprise, I'd like to thank you for everything you are doing to care for patients through this unparalleled event. Now, more than ever, the impact of your commitment, talent, and expertise is in full view. Your dedication will undoubtedly save countless lives."

**-- Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH
President and CEO
The Joint Commission**

In Today's **COVID-19 Update**, sober transparency about the situation at **NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst**, our policy to **protect patient and staff privacy**, who to contact for available **hotel rooms** for front-line staff, and what you need to know from the latest published **research and evidence** about COVID-19.

About NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst

Many news media are reporting on the challenging conditions at the hospital, which is at the center of the crisis and the number one priority of our public hospital system. The frontline staff are going above and beyond in this crisis, and we continue surging supplies and personnel to this critical facility to keep pace with the crisis. [View our full statement here.](#)

Protecting Patient and Staff Privacy

During these extraordinary times, NYC Health + Hospitals remains committed to protecting patient privacy and confidentiality while we fulfill our mission to serve everyone regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. We know that staff are concerned for the health and safety of their friends and colleagues. However, accessing patient records for purposes other than treating a patient, or as necessary to fulfill official job responsibilities, remains strictly prohibited. In addition, any photography or filming of patients and staff requires express permission of the patients who are the subjects of such photographs. [View the OP-240-29 HIPAA Privacy Policy – Patient Photography and Recording.](#)

Hotel Accommodations for Staff

NYC Health + Hospitals is here to help employees during this COVID-19 crisis. The health system is now making hotel rooms available at no cost to employees in clinical and non-clinical roles, including affiliate and temporary staff. The rooms may be reserved for reasons that include self-quarantine, possible COVID-19 exposure, inability to return home for risk of exposing members of household, or other COVID-19 related reasons. [Contact your facility coordinator](#) to request a room.

New COVID-19 Research and Evidence Digest

The new [Evidence Digest](#) has plain language summaries of the latest evidence from the scientific and public health literature on the COVID-19 epidemic. Recent topics include briefs about the combination treatment of azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19, a new model from Harvard that predicts COVID-19 transmission, and the need

to include prisons and other detention centers in public health responses to COVID-19. The digest will be updated regularly.

In the News

- **Becker's Hospital Review** - [How 3 New York Hospitals Are Responding to Staffing Crisis](#)
 - **Bloomberg News** - [Dr. Nick Caputo on Critical Need for Supplies](#)
 - **New York Times** - [Some Pregnant Women in New York City Will Have to Deliver Babies Alone](#) (but not at NYC Health + Hospitals)
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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:

[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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