



## COVID-19 Update

**Friday, March 27, 2020**

*"The size and scale of the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging us, and the entire health care community, in ways we could never have even imagined. Yet, our heroic staff continues to shine. While I continue to advocate around the clock to secure the additional beds, staffing and supplies we need to protect our workforce and continue to provide safe care to our patients, I urge you to make it a priority to care for yourselves and care for each other. We will get to the other side of this. Meanwhile, thank you for all you are doing to keep New Yorkers safe."*

**-- Dr. Mitchell Katz  
President/CEO  
NYC Health + Hospitals**

In Today's **COVID-19 Update**, view a **message of gratitude** from Dr. Eric Wei, more about the **additional staff and hospital beds** that will help manage the surge of patients, how eligible staff can **request a parking permit** or a **taxi ride**, and how to sign up for a **free 30-day CitiBike** membership.

### **A Video Thank You from Dr. Wei**

Our health system's Chief Quality Officer is also an Emergency Medicine physician who's been helping to pitch in on the front lines of the epidemic. [View his video message of gratitude](#) to all staff.



### **More Nurses, More Beds**

NYC Health + Hospitals leadership continues to advocate and secure resources to help manage the surge of patients seeking care at our facilities across the city. Our health system will have access to 1,000 additional hospital beds at the Jacob Javits center, and we are working with Memorial Sloan Kettering, NYU Orthopedic Hospital, the Hospital for Special Surgery, and city, state and federal partners to secure even more beds. This week we started to deploy an additional 1,800 nurses who will be available to work across our health system – including school nurses who are being reassigned. Most of the new nurses will be assigned and ready for service by next week.

### **Street Parking Permits Available for Staff**

A limited number of on-street parking permits from the NYC Department of Transportation are now available for NYC Health + Hospitals clinical and non-clinical front-line staff, including temporary and affiliate employees. Permits are limited to parking around the facility area and will expire July 2020. Permits cannot be duplicated and can only be used by registered staff member. For more information and to request a permit, [contact your facility transportation liaison](#).

## Curb Taxi Service – Now Available for ED and ICU staff

To provide extra support for staff working overnight in the Emergency Departments and Intensive Care Units at our acute facilities, we are providing two free taxi rides per week between the hours of 8pm-6am. This offer does not apply to senior management. [Click here to learn how to book a ride](#) and who to contact for assistance.

## Free CitiBike Membership

Free 30-day Citi Bike memberships are now available for NYC Health+ Hospitals staff. This free membership includes unlimited 45-minute rides on classic Citi Bike bicycles and e-bikes. Go to: [citibikenyc.com/nyhealthandhospitals](http://citibikenyc.com/nyhealthandhospitals) and enter program code: **688Y9E17**. You must sign up before April 30. Questions? Check out the [program FAQs here](#). Whether you're an experienced rider or new to urban cycling, [here are a few simple tips](#) to help you feel more comfortable and confident.

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If you have questions, write to us at [COVID-19Readiness@nychhc.org](mailto: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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