

January 26, 2021

Good afternoon,

Hopefully by now, you are recovered physically if not emotionally from the Bills game. While the game did not end in the way any of us had hoped, there was much to celebrate this season. In a year full of unprecedented challenges, the reemergence of the Buffalo Bills was a ray of hope and perhaps a reminder that there are better days to come.

### COVID-19 Updates

**Hospital Census:** As of January 24, there were 73 COVID positive patients at BGMC (22 in the ICU), 73 at MFSH (13 in the ICU) and 1 at Oishei (0 in the ICU).

### Erie County, New York State and United States Status (as of January 24, 2021)

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in past 24 hours	ICU Reserve Capacity	Percent Vaccinated
Erie County	6.9% (5.2% rolling average)	424	68%	Unknown
New York State	5.5% (5.8% rolling average)	12,003	69%	6.2%
United States	8.96%	132,537	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
<b>Source:</b> <a href="http://erie.gov/covidtestsites">erie.gov/covidtestsites</a> <a href="https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/">https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/</a> <a href="https://covidactnow.org/us/ny/">https://covidactnow.org/us/ny/</a>				

### COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

#### Moderna Vaccine effective against new strains of COVID-19

- Moderna has released some positive news about their vaccine
- Their data suggests that their vaccine is effective against the currently know variants of COVID-19
- To see their full report:  
<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.25.427948v1.full.pdf>

#### Allergic Reactions Including Anaphylaxis After Receipt of the First Dose of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, December 21, 2020–January 10, 2021

- An article was published in MMWR discussing allergic reactions to the Moderna vaccine
- The authors found that “as of January 10, 2021, a reported 4,041,396 first doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in the United States, and reports of 1,266 (0.03%) adverse events after receipt of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine were submitted to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Among these, 108 case reports were identified for further review as possible cases of severe allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis.”

- The full article is available at:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7004e1.htm>

### Immunological memory to SARS-CoV-2 assessed for up to 8 months after infection

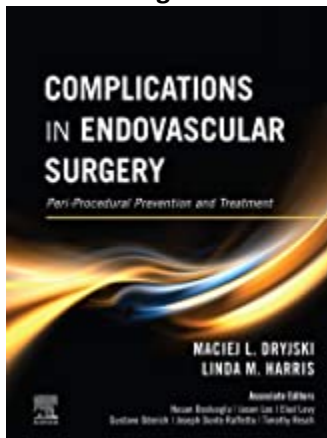
- An article was published in the journal Science discussing how long the COVID vaccine might be expected to remain effective
- The authors state that “understanding immune memory to SARS-CoV-2 is critical for improving diagnostics and vaccines, and for assessing the likely future course of the COVID-19 pandemic. We analyzed multiple compartments of circulating immune memory to SARS-CoV-2 in 254 samples from 188 COVID-19 cases, including 43 samples at  $\geq 6$  months post-infection. IgG to the Spike protein was relatively stable over 6+ months. Spike-specific memory B cells were more abundant at 6 months than at 1 month post symptom onset. SARS-CoV-2-specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells declined with a half-life of 3-5 months. By studying antibody, memory B cell, CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell, and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell memory to SARS-CoV-2 in an integrated manner, we observed that each component of SARS-CoV-2 immune memory exhibited distinct kinetics.”
- The full article is available at:  
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2021/01/06/science.abf4063>

### Hospital Updates

#### Elective Surgery

- During his update yesterday, Governor Cuomo announced that Erie County is now eligible to restart elective surgery across the region
- In a statement, Kaleida Health CEO Robert J. Nesselbush said, “On behalf of the entire Kaleida Health workforce and the patients that we serve, we want to thank Gov. Cuomo for today’s announcement about the resumption of elective surgeries in Erie County. This will undoubtedly have a positive impact on patient care and outcomes, not to mention our operations and our overall financial position.”

#### Vascular Surgeons Publish Book



- Dr. Linda Harris and Dr. Maciej Dryjski recently published a book titled, “Complications in Endovascular Surgery: Peri-Procedural Prevention and Treatment”
- Associate editors included Dr. Elad Levy, Dr. Hasan Dosluoglu
- Nationally and internationally renowned authors included Dr. Gregory Cherr, Dr. Brittany Montross, Dr. Richard Curl, Dr. Sikandar Khan, Dr. Adnan Siddiqui and Dr. Kenneth Snyder as well as several fellows and residents from vascular surgery and neurosurgery

- It provides a unique focus on potential complications, how to prevent them, and what to do when they occur to prevent more adverse or catastrophic outcomes
- Geared towards vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists and neurointerventionalists, with a section for cardiology interventions as well
- Both digital and hardcopy editions are available so that practitioners can “carry” the book with them to the angio suites and operating rooms
- To purchase or download:
  - <https://www.elsevier.com/books/complications-in-endovascular-surgery/harris/978-0-323-55448-0>
  - [https://www.amazon.com/Complications-Endovascular-Surgery-Book-Peri-Procedural-ebook/dp/B08QYZMJ7Z/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crid=2E0U0MOQBZ6B4&dchild=1&keywords=complications+in+endovascular+surgery&qid=1611593579&sprefix=complications+in+%2Caps%2C191&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Complications-Endovascular-Surgery-Book-Peri-Procedural-ebook/dp/B08QYZMJ7Z/ref=sr_1_2?crid=2E0U0MOQBZ6B4&dchild=1&keywords=complications+in+endovascular+surgery&qid=1611593579&sprefix=complications+in+%2Caps%2C191&sr=8-2)

## Updates in the Literature

### Effect of Bamlanivimab as Monotherapy or in Combination with Etesevimab on Viral Load in Patients with Mild to Moderate COVID-19A Randomized Clinical Trial

- An article was published in JAMA discussing monoclonal therapy
- The authors found that “treatment with bamlanivimab and etesevimab combination therapy, but not bamlanivimab monotherapy, resulted in a reduction in SARS-CoV-2 log viral load at day 11 in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19.”
- The full article is available at: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2775647>

### Change in Reported Adherence to Nonpharmaceutical Interventions During the COVID-19 Pandemic, April-November 2020

- An article was published in JAMA discussing patient behavior
- The authors found that “This study found a decrease in reported adherence to NPIs overall and to most individual NPIs during the pandemic, irrespective of geography. The increase in reported mask wearing aligns with other national surveys of self-reported mask use, and may reflect improved public health messaging.”
- The full article is available at: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2775686>

## Patient Education

### Answering Your COVID Questions

## Meet the Physicians Who Will Answer Your COVID Questions on TV



**Kenneth V. Snyder MD PhD FAANS FACS**  
Chief Physician Quality Officer  
Kaleida Health &  
Assoc. Professor Neurosurgery



**Raul Vazquez MD**  
Founder, President  
G-Health Enterprises  
Urban Family Practice

**Email your COVID-19 questions to:**

**[info@BuffaloHealthyLiving.com](mailto:info@BuffaloHealthyLiving.com)**

**& watch the show on**

**Wednesday February 10 & 17 at 8 pm**

**Saturday February 13 and 20 at 12:30 pm**

**On Spectrum, Dish, and Fios @ Channel 5**

**& ON-AIR & DirecTV @ Channel 67**



**Your Hometown Health Connection** 

- Dr. Ken Snyder will join WBBZ to help answer patient questions about COVID-19
- There is an opportunity for patients to ask questions in advance and have them answered directly

### **Conversations in Science: COVID Vaccines on January 27**

- The [UB Community of Excellence known as The Genome, Environment and Microbiome \(GEM\)](#) is hosting a session with the Buffalo Museum of Science tomorrow night
- January 27 from 6-7 p.m.
- The session is free to attend
- As COVID-19 vaccination efforts ramp up across our region, many of us have questions about the COVID vaccines. How do they work? How did scientists develop them so quickly? How can we explain the vaccines to family and friends, especially children? Bring your questions to this special Conversations in Science with a demonstration and discussion led by University at Buffalo's Genome, Environment, and Microbiome Community of Excellence
- Website and Registration Link: <https://www.sciencebuff.org/event/conversations-in-science-covid-vaccines-2/>
- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/409608270120203/>
- UB's Dr. Jennifer Surtees, founding co-leader and current co-director of GEM shared this information with me. GEM and Dr. Surtees have been working with communities and schools in Erie County throughout the pandemic, and is now looking for longitudinal opportunities to build trust over time, which may be a way to address misinformation and change behavior.

Today's theme is a reminder that we are not alone. Earlier this week, we quietly noted the one-year anniversary of the first case of the coronavirus arriving on American shores. Soon, we will mark the anniversary of its arrival in Western New York. It has been a challenging year for all. The pandemic has forced us to redefine what normal looks like. It has strained the way we work and the bonds that hold us together. For many of our neighbors, this has meant self-imposed isolation as we retreated into our homes for safety. We know that this choice came at a cost as rates of depression and substance abuse have skyrocketed across the community. As healthcare workers, we were not immune to this suffering. We did not have the choice to stay in our homes. Our work, our obligation to serve this community meant that we had to go out every day in the face the virus directly. Looking back, we can now see that serving on the front line meant that we not only shared the stress our neighbors knew, but we were also burdened with the responsibility of caring for others. Today, this suffering is manifesting itself in the form of burnout, moral exhaustion and simple fatigue. Healthcare providers across the region are exhausted, but stopping is not an option. To move forward, we must learn to support each other. We must learn to offer help, ask for help, and perhaps most challenging, accept help from others. As professionals, we pride ourselves on our autonomy. We have been taught from our earliest days of training to do our own work and not to put a burden on others. To survive, this is something we need to get beyond. Even in normal days, medicine has become too complex and too all-consuming to be placed on any single person's shoulders. Building that team will take time, but we must start today by connecting ourselves to others. I ask each of you to reach out to your colleagues with an offer of help. Take time today and every day to seek out your coworkers. Try to understand how they are feeling and share what you are experiencing. This will play out differently across the community with each setting and each specialty having a unique character, but the simple act of letting people know that they are not alone will make us all immeasurably better. There is strength and comfort in knowing that the pain you are experiencing is shared, and even if we cannot mitigate your burden today, you are not alone. Together we will make it through today's challenges and all that which they had. We will do it by working together, supporting one another, and by being will to both offer and accept help from others.

As always, your input is critical to ensure that this brief meets the needs of the community. Please send comments to [coronavirusupdates@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:coronavirusupdates@kaleidahealth.org).

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**Questions**

If you have questions, please reach out ([coronavirusupdates@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:coronavirusupdates@kaleidahealth.org)), and we will do our best to get you the information you need.