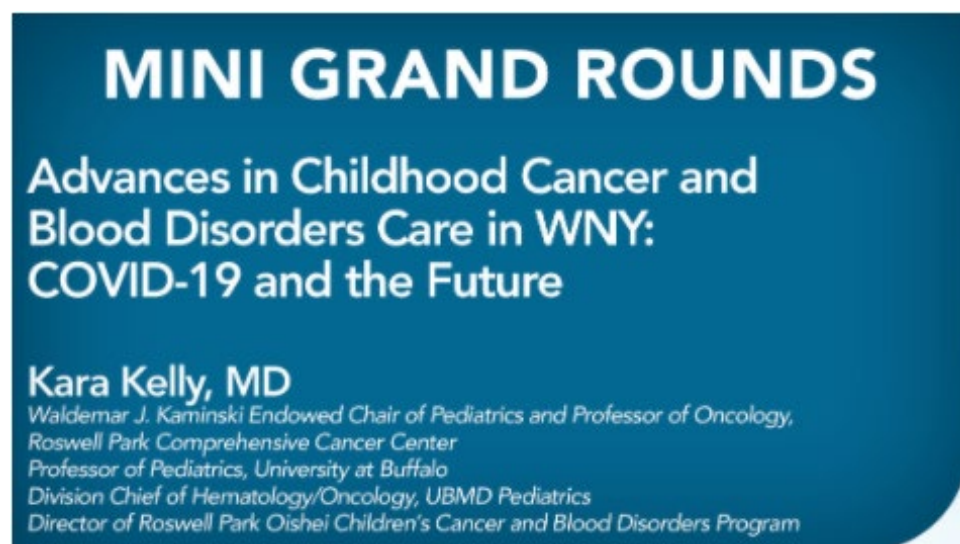


March 2, 2021

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the first week of March. While there is still a chill in the air, we are beginning to see the first signs of spring. This is always a tangible reminder that hope is on the way. Supporting that belief, hospitalization numbers continue to trend down while vaccination rates climb. March 2 also seems to be a great day for historic events. On this date in 1962, Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points (the most ever by a single player in an NBA game) as the Warriors defeated the New York Knicks. Also, on this date and seven years later in 1969 Boston, center Phil Esposito became the first player in NHL history to record 100 points in a season when he scores two 3rd-period goals in the Bruins' 4-0 win over the visiting Pittsburgh Penguins. We are therefore justified in expecting great things when the Sabres meet the Rangers this evening.

Mini Grand Rounds: COVID-19 and Childhood Cancer



- Tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m. will mark the latest installment of the Mini Grand Rounds series
- This week's conversation will address our evolving understanding of COVID-19 and its impact on childhood cancer
- To access the event or to learn more:
<https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15778>

COVID-19 Updates

Hospital Census: As of February 28, there were 41 COVID positive patients at BGMC (14 in the ICU), 22 at MFSH (6 in the ICU) and 3 at Oishei (1 in the ICU).

Erie County, New York State and United States Status (as of March 1, 2021)

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in past 24 hours	ICU Reserve Capacity	Percent Vaccinated
Erie County	4.0% (3.5% rolling average)	149	62%	15.4

New York State	3.6% (3.1% rolling average)	6,235	68%	14.3%
United States	4.42%	58,812	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Unknown</i>

Source:

[Erie County Data](#)

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

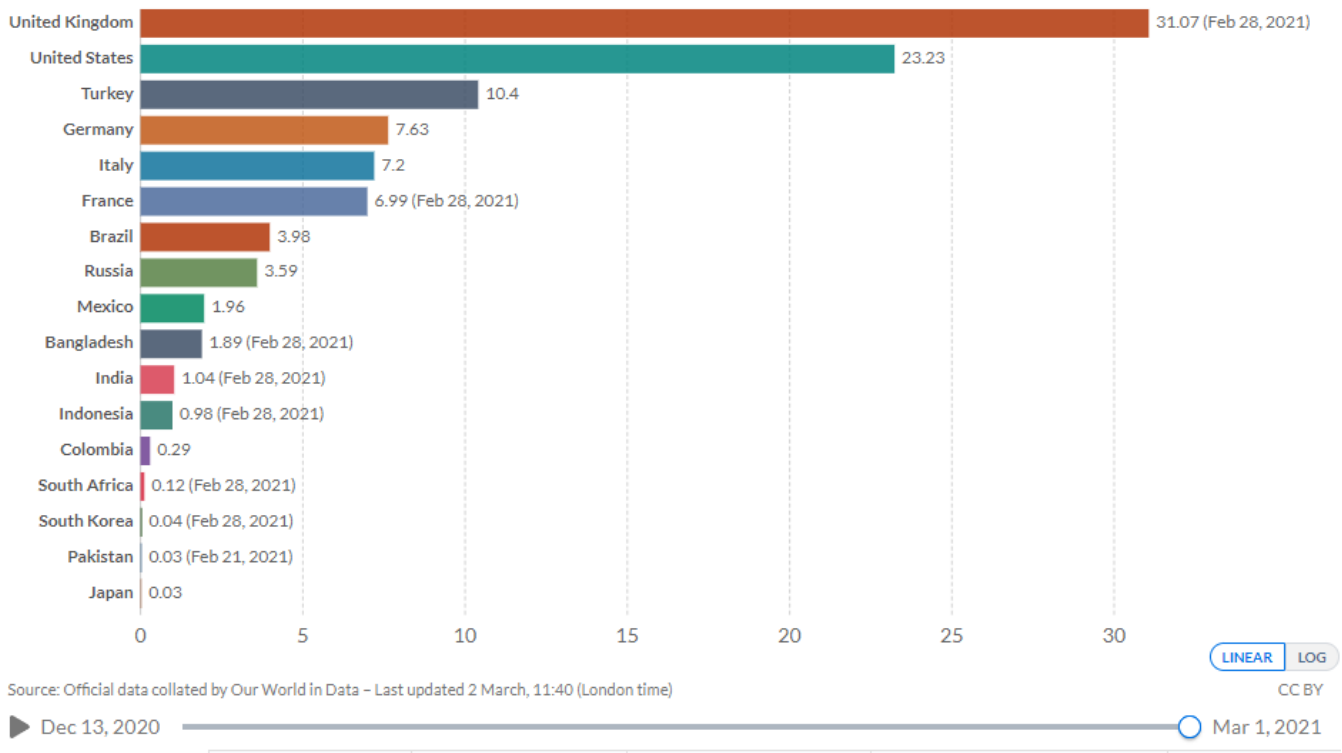
<https://covidactnow.org/us/ny/>

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

FDA Authorizes Johnson & Johnson Coronavirus Vaccine

- On February 27, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the third vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The EUA allows the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 18 years of age and older
- To learn more: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine>

Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Doses Administered per 100 people, Mar 1, 2021



Source: [Our World in Data](#)

Hospital Updates

Enhanced Visitation Policy: Effective February 27, 2021

- To protect our patients, families, visitors, and staff against the spread of infection, and in accordance with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance, Kaleida Health has implemented the following visitation policy at all sites, effective February 27, 2021. This does not apply to those seeking treatment.
- To learn more:
<https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15795>

Policy Updates at Kaleida Health

- Below are the new and revised policies that affect providers at Kaleida Health. Please take a moment to review this month's updates. The policy links below are accessible from a Kaleida Health computer only or when connected to the Kaleida Health network. For additional assistance, please contact Amber Mata at amata@kaleidahealth.org
- New Policies:
 - [TX IVs and MEDS 36](#) – Outpatient Biosimilar Substitution Policy
 - [TX IVs and MEDS 37](#) – Adult Chemotherapy and Biologic Dose Rounding
- Revised Policies:
 - [TX IVs and MEDS 20](#) – Pharmacy Initiated Dose Adjustment for Specified Medications – Updated to include Appendix F

Jacobs School of Medicine Talent Show

Jacobs School of Medicine Talent Show
Actors, singers, poets, dancers, solo musicians, bands, comedians, painters, writers, illusionists, puppeteers... whatever your talent is, we want to celebrate it and put you in the spotlight!

Organized by
Internal
Medicine
Wellness &
Faculty
Wellbeing
Committee

Open to all
Specialties &
Departments
Deadline for
Submission:
March 7th 2021

Submit video (<3min) or picture at : <https://buffalo.box.com/s/mlnwqkfc7lwo7jojno0t9ictsn7fhc0z> or email
amishra@buffalo.edu
Please include name (s) of those in video , role in school (faculty, residents, fellows, staff or student) and description of what
they are performing.
The act of submitting a picture or video serves as permission to include the submitter's name and video. We will assemble
submissions that will be aired in a single performance (TBD). A virtual zoom reception will follow the performance.

- Whatever your talent is, the School of Medicine wants to celebrate it and put you in the spotlight!
- A variety of acts are encouraged, solo or group performances – singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, skits, magic tricks, stand-up comedy, painting, juggling, or any other unique talent!
- All acts must be NO LONGER THAN 3 MINUTES
- Last Date for Submission: March 7, 2021
- Please submit to:
amishra@buffalo.edu or <https://buffalo.box.com/s/mlnwqkfc7lwo7jojno0t9ictsn7fhc0z>

Practice Updates

CMS: Geographic Direct Contracting

- CMS has just announced that this innovated model is “currently under review and CMS looks forward to sharing additional information when available.”
- This program is a pilot to test whether DCEs can improve quality and lower costs for Medicare beneficiaries across an entire region
- To learn more:
<https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/geographic-direct-contracting-model>

Updates in the Literature

Impact of the Influenza Vaccine on COVID-19 Infection Rates and Severity

- An article was published in JAMA discussing influenza
- The authors found that “the odds of testing positive for COVID-19 were reduced in patients who received an influenza vaccine compared to those who did not by 24% Vaccinated patients testing positive for COVID-19 were less likely to require hospitalization or mechanical ventilation and had a shorter hospital length of stay.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2021.02.012>

Interleukin-1 and interleukin-6 inhibition compared with standard management in patients with COVID-19 and hyperinflammation: a cohort study

- An article was published in the Lancet discussing interleukin therapy
- The authors found that “IL-1 inhibition, but not IL-6 inhibition, was associated with a significant reduction of mortality in patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19, respiratory insufficiency, and hyperinflammation. IL-6 inhibition was effective in a subgroup of patients with markedly high C-reactive protein concentrations, whereas both IL-1 and IL-6 inhibition were effective in patients with low lactate dehydrogenase concentrations.”
- The full article is available at:
- [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2665-9913\(21\)00012-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2665-9913(21)00012-6)

Characteristics and Outcomes of US Children and Adolescents with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Compared with Severe Acute COVID-19

- An article was published in JAMA discussing MIS-C
- The authors’ “findings suggest patterns of clinical presentation and organ involvement that distinguish between patients with MIS-C and severe acute COVID-19.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777026>

Reduction in COVID-19 Patients Requiring Mechanical Ventilation Following Implementation of a National COVID-19 Vaccination Program — Israel, December 2020–February 2021

- An article was published by the CDC discussing COVID disease progression
- The authors’ “findings provide preliminary evidence of the effectiveness of vaccines in preventing severe cases of COVID-19 at the national level in Israel.”

- The full article is available at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7009e3.htm>

Household Transmission of SARS-CoV-2

- An article was published in JAMA discussing household transmission
- The authors found that “overall household infection risk of 10.1%, consistent with reported transmission risk based on more traditional contact tracing, including a recent meta-analysis that reported an overall transmission risk of 17.1%, although there was wide variation across studies.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2776908>

Association of Convalescent Plasma Treatment with Clinical Outcomes in Patients With COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

- An article was published in JAMA discussing convalescent plasma
- The authors found “among patients with COVID-19, treatment with convalescent plasma compared with control was not associated with improved survival or other positive clinical outcomes.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777060>

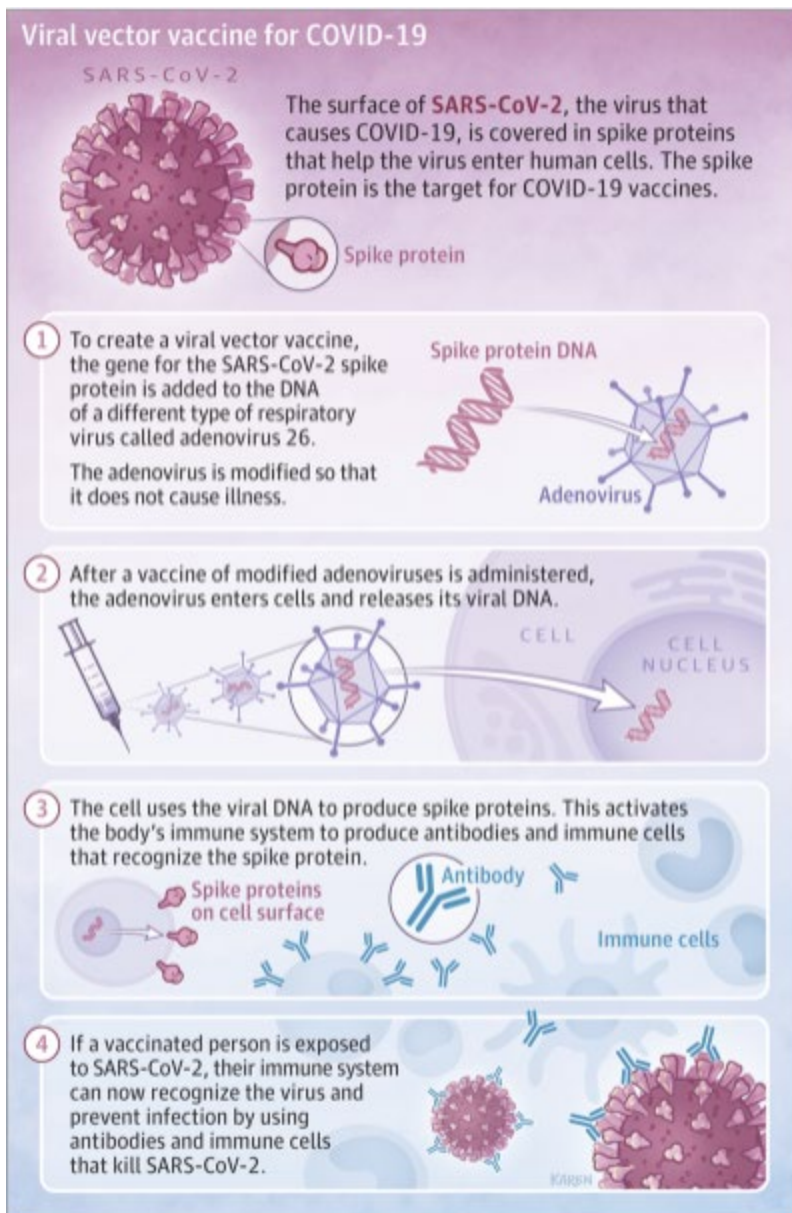
Binding and Neutralization Antibody Titers After a Single Vaccine Dose in Health Care Workers Previously Infected With SARS-CoV-2

- An article was published in JAMA discussing COVID vaccine
- The authors found that “health care workers with previous COVID-19 infection, based on laboratory-confirmed serology testing, had higher antibody titer responses to a single dose of mRNA vaccine than those who were not previously infected. Antibody titers started peaking at 7 days and achieved higher titers and neutralization in 14 days compared with Ab-negative volunteers.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777171>

Patient Education

Flyer on Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccine

- This week’s JAMA included a patient education flyer on the latest vaccine
- It is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777172>



Today's theme is about taking the time to acknowledge the heroes among us. Looking back, it is hard to remember what the world looked like a year ago. On this day in 2020, there were fewer than 100 cases of COVID-19 anywhere in the country. The first case to reach Western New York was still more than a week away. The community was scrambling to prepare. During the past year, we have rightfully taken time to celebrate many great accomplishments, truly heroic acts of science and humanity. Today, however, I want to take a moment to celebrate the ordinary heroism we see every day that so often goes unrecognized and unacknowledged. Major Dick Winters was a veteran of World War II who gained long-overdue recognition with the publication of his book, "Band of Brothers." That book is the story of his experience with "Easy Company" during the European campaign. In the book, he relates a story about his grandson asking him if he had been a hero during the war. As an answer, Winters replied, "I said to him no I'm not a hero, but I have served in a company full of them." While the world in which Major Winters lived and the war in which he fought are very different than our own, his central message holds true across the years. In a time when our communities needed people to stand up and help fight the pandemic, it was the healthcare workers of Western New York who stood up. We are now almost a year into this struggle. People are tired, and the work we do has taken on an air of the routine. I caution you not to fall into the trap of complacency. The world may have adopted to the "new

normal,” and wearing protective garments to work may no longer feel strange, but this does not mean that the work we are doing is ordinary. These are exceptional times. The pandemic is not over, and while it may not feel brave to show up at work and take care of patients every day, standing on the front lines in health care during a pandemic is a daily act of heroism. We should acknowledge it in ourselves and appreciate it in our co-workers.

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

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Michael Mineo, MD
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Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital and
DeGraff Medical Park*

Stephen Turkovich, MD
*Chief Medical Officer
Oishei Children’s Hospital*

Richard Charles, MD
*Chief Medical Officer
General Physician, PC*

Thomas Hughes, MD
*Chief Medical Officer
Optimum Physician Alliance*

Questions

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