

Kaleida Health
COVID-19 Update

December 8, 2020

Good afternoon,

Today marks the first anniversary of an occasion which will be remembered in history books for decades to come. It is now the one year anniversary of the presentation of the first patient in Wuhan, China with a novel respiratory virus that would later be known as COVID-19. It is worth looking at the original World Health Organization alert which came out almost a month later (<https://www.who.int/csr/don/12-january-2020-novel-coronavirus-china/en/>) to remember where this all began.

Outpatient Therapy for COVID-19 Now Available in Western New York (UPDATED)

- Kaleida Health continues to operate an ambulatory infusion site at DeGraff Medical Park for the treatment of outpatients with COVID-19
- THERAPIES:
 - In addition to Bamalanivimab, the Regeneron monoclonal antibody therapy (casirivimab + Imdevimab) is now also available under EUA
 - Selection criteria and exclusions are identical Bamalanivimab
 - Please select which treatment you would prefer on the infusion order form
- REQUIREMENTS:
 - PCR results are no longer required; rapid testing will suffice
- To learn more: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15210>

COVID-19 Updates

Hospital Census: As of 1 p.m. yesterday, there were 195 patients in Kaleida Health hospitals who had been diagnosed with COVID-19. 162 were in medical beds and 33 in the ICU. To learn more:

<https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15212>

Erie County, New York State and United States Status (as of December 6, 2020)

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in past 24 hours	ICU Reserve Capacity
Erie County	4.3% (7.7% rolling average)	248	46%
New York State	4.8% (4.9% rolling average)	7,318	36%
United States	10.47%	192,299	n/a

Source:

erie.gov/covidtestsites

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

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

Community Updates

NYS Update: In order to manage hospital capacity during this expected surge, New York State will begin implementing its “surge and flex” protocol. As part of this strategy, all hospitals must begin expanding their bed

capacity by 25 percent. Hospital systems must also balance patient loads within their system to make sure no one hospital is overstressed. To learn more: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-directs-state-department-health-begin-implementing-surge-flex-hospital-protocol>

Research Opportunities: The University of Buffalo Jacob's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is participating in several research trials involving the management of COVID-19. These include:

1. Melatonin vs placebo for known outpatient positives
2. Regeneron monoclonal antibodies for household contacts of known COVID-19 positive patients

They are currently recruiting participants for these studies these studies. To learn more: [UB clinical trials office](#)

Hospital Updates

Testing Protocol for Discharging to a Congregate Living Environment: To remove any confusion, Kaleida Health would like to outline its policy on testing protocols for patients being discharged to congregate living. NYS currently requires one negative molecular COVID-19 test prior to discharge to congregate living. An Abbot IDNow meets that requirement. Some facilities oppose usage of the Abbot IDNow or request two negative COVID-19 tests. This is not consistent with NYS mandates. This process is targeted to patients living with mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised who are:

- 1) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
- 2) at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

If they require discharge to a congregate living facility, on day 10, the provider should order an Abbott IDNow. If the test is positive and the patient continues to be asymptomatic, repeat the Abbott IDNow every 48 hours until a negative result is received. Once a negative result is received, do not order another test. Review with patient management if a facility is requesting a second negative result or a result on a different testing platform.

To learn more: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15215>

New York State Mandating New Surge Plans for Hospitals: Kaleida Health released the following statement yesterday in response to Governor Cuomo instructing hospitals across New York State to increase their capacity by 25 percent. It is available at: <https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15211>

Provider Update

Kaleida Health Emotional Support Warmline: At the height of the pandemic, a group of mental health specialists set up a support line for healthcare workers across the community. As we continue into the third surge of the pandemic, it is worth reminding everyone that the warmline is still up and running. It is available to any healthcare worker who might want to reach out. They are available at 716-859-2020.

COVID-19 Vaccine Program: DEADLINE December 18, 2020: The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is now enrolling healthcare provider practices in the NYSDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Practices interested in administering COVID-19 vaccine when the vaccine becomes available to their group must enroll in the NYSDOH program to be ready to order and receive publicly supplied COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies. To learn more: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/nysdoh-covid-19-vaccination-program-enrollment-letter12-3-2020.pdf>

Starbucks Offers Free Coffee to Frontline Responders Throughout December: In response to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and to recognize the significant efforts of the front-line responder and health care community, Starbucks has announced that it will offer a free tall, brewed coffee (hot or iced) to front-line responders at participating U.S. Starbucks stores throughout the month of December to show appreciation for those keeping our communities safe during COVID-19. To learn more:

<https://stories.starbucks.com/press/2020/what-customers-need-to-know-about-starbucks-response-to-covid-19/>

In Memoria: Lancet has published an article highlighting the lives and work of some of the providers we have lost in the fight against COVID-19. It is available here: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)32478-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32478-8)

Learning Opportunities

- **COVID-19 Vaccines – Help Is on The Way**
 - Mini Grand Rounds - December 9, 2020 from 7:30-8 a.m.
 - Dr. Timothy Murphy will be discussing what we might expect from a vaccine for COVID-19
 - To join via Skype: <https://lincmeet.kaleidahealth.org/droman/M4TTL8WD>
 - To join via phone, dial: 1-716-859-7444 (Conference ID: 1142805)

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

Today's theme is a reminder that we are living through a defining moment in history. A year ago today, a single patient with a novel virus was recognized in Wuhan, China. In the months since that time, we have watched as that virus spread across the planet and redefined our understanding of what was normal. It has been a year which saw great tragedy. A quarter of a million Americans have succumbed to COVID-19. It has also been a year marked by feats of great heroism. Who has not been moved at the bravery of our colleagues at work or the less recognized essential workers who keep this community functioning? 2020 also saw amazing feats of science, which bring us ever closer to closing this chapter in our collective lives. Every generation has a few moments that define it. For the Greatest Generation, it was Pearl Harbor and the death of Roosevelt. For the Baby Boomers, it was the death of Kennedy and King. For our generation, it will be September 11 and the pandemic that began on December 8, 2019. Years from now, when we look back on these days, we will remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made, but as healthcare workers who were on the front lines, we will also know that the sacrifices that each of you made meant lives saved. It is natural to be tired and worn by the stress of past 12 months, but the work you are doing matters greatly and your sacrifices, even if unnoticed, are not unappreciated.

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Questions

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