

Kaleida Health
COVID-19 Update

January 8, 2021

Good Afternoon,

Welcome to the end of the first full work week of 2021. In addition to being the final day before the Bill's playoff game, today is the last day of national "Someday We'll Laugh About this Week" week. I am hoping that proves to be true.

Mini-Grand Rounds: COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

- Join us for Mini Grand Rounds on Wednesday, January 6 from 7:30-8 a.m. as Dr. Michael Mineo will discuss the COVID-19 vaccine, the vaccination process and where we go from here
- Everyone is welcome to participate in these weekly virtual events
- CME is available.
- To join the meeting: <https://lyncmeet.kaleidahealth.org/droman/M4TTL8WD>

COVID-19 Updates

Hospital Census: As of January 5, there were 97 COVID positive patients at BGMC (26 in the ICU), 70 at MFSH (11 in the ICU) and 4 at Oishei (2 in the ICU).

Erie County, New York State and United States Status (as of January 6, 2021)

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in past 24 hours	ICU Reserve Capacity
Erie County	7.6% (7.5% rolling average)	852	<i>Not available</i>
New York State	7.4% (7.9% rolling average)	17,636	67%
United States	13.6%	274,703	<i>Not available</i>

Source:

erie.gov/covidtestsites
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
<https://covidactnow.org/us/ny/>

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Today is the Last Chance for First Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine: Sign Up Now!

- First dose appointments are available today, Friday, January 8 for all employees, providers, residents, fellows, and students who work at Buffalo General Medical Center/Gates Vascular Institute, DeGraff Medical Park, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital and Oishei Children's Hospital who have not yet received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, individuals at Kaleida Health's outpatient clinics, Kaleida Health Laboratories, Millard Fillmore Surgery Center and Southtowns Surgery Center can schedule appointments for their first dose
- The Visiting Nursing Association (VNA) began vaccinating their clinical staff at their Erie Office location on Wednesday

- DeGraff Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Facility and HighPointe on Michigan are following a separate vaccination process through Walgreens per NYSDOH directives
- Following NYSDOH guidance and based on remaining availability of vaccine, we may be able to open the schedule further to other members of the Kaleida Health family working at other locations or remotely
- Appointments are REQUIRED. Check your email for a link to schedule your appointment. DO NOT FORWARD THIS LINK as our vaccine clinics are not open to the public, and anyone who is not eligible will be turned away

Am I Eligible?

- The NYS Department of Health has put together a website to help individuals who do not have access through the health system to get a vaccine
- It is available at:
<https://am-i-eligible-qa.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/Public/prescreener>

MLMIC Vaccine Resources

- MLMIC has put together several resources to help you develop a better understanding of the implications of providing COVID-19 vaccines
- It is available at:
<https://www.mlmic.com/covid-19/vaccine-resources>

Hospital Updates

DeGraff Medical Park

- Exciting things are happening at DeGraff
- Portions of the facility are being reopened for specialty care including temporary residential care for patients recovering from COVID-19
- Additionally, they continue to run a full-service Emergency Department. As the other EDs across the system are overwhelmed with patients, this is an important resource for all the Northtowns



Updates in the Literature

Estimation of US SARS-CoV-2 Infections, Symptomatic Infections, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Using Seroprevalence Surveys

- An article was published in JAMA discussing prevalence of COVID-19 infection across the United States
- The author's study suggests that although more than 14% of the US population was infected with SARS-CoV-2 by mid-November, a substantial gap remains before herd immunity can be reached

- The full article is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2774584>

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

- An article was published in the journal Science discussing persistent olfactory disturbance in COVID
- The authors found “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+ T cells and CD8+ T cells declined with a half-life of 3-5 months. By studying antibody, memory B cell, CD4+ T cell, and CD8+ 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/2021/01/05/science.abf4063>

Today's theme is about unity. We are now just over a week into the New Year, but in many ways New Year's Eve already seems a distant memory. Originally, I had intended to offer a theme about direction and mission in the New Year to start us off in the right direction, but somehow that no longer feels appropriate. The news and images coming out of the nation's capital over the last several days have impacted each of us in ways that will take time to process. I know that many of you, like myself, have watched the news and perhaps for the first time in our lives been forced to question whether there truly is a United States or are we simply individuals on our own courses. Seeing our nation's capital overrun has caused me to question our common purpose, but a spark of hope has also been rekindled. After being forced to flee from rioters early in the day, our nation's lawmakers returned later that evening. Hours earlier, many of them had been prepared to question the validity of our presidential election, but that evening, they appeared recommitted to the notion that we are one nation and truly a United States. This is certainly a bigger question than any of us. It is bigger than our health system, and it is bigger than our community. It will take time to answer those questions completely, but I believe that there are lessons that can be immediately applied in our own lives. Great Lakes Health is a community of individual providers and individual practices. It was not built as a single entity, but exists as a collection of many. Sometimes this has been a strength and other times not. Since the beginning of the pandemic, however, we have come together as a single community to support one another and meet previously unimagined challenges. The work we have done together has been incredible, and it is something for which I will always be deeply grateful. That being said, the pandemic has strained all of us. People are fatigued, and it is easy to feel us being pulled asunder. So far, we have fought that emotion. Today, it is important that we reflect on the theme of unity. We may all have individual dreams, but we need to remember, and we need to commit to the notion that we are stronger together. The challenges which face us will not tire and will not abate of their own accord. We must work together. We must commit to one another. We must support each other as we pursue common goals.

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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Questions

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