

February 9, 2021

Good afternoon,

Today marks the 151st anniversary of the date in 1870 when Ulysses S. Grant signed the U.S. Weather Bureau into existence. This is a particularly fitting date to remember on this crisp Buffalo winter day. Please remember to stay safe and warm.

### COVID-19 Updates

**Hospital Census:** As of February 7, there were 61 COVID positive patients at BGMC (16 in the ICU), 44 at MFSH (6 in the ICU) and 6 at Oishei (1 in the ICU).

### Erie County, New York State and United States Status (as of February 7, 2021)

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in past 24 hours	ICU Reserve Capacity	Percent Vaccinated
Erie County	4.9% (5.0% rolling average)	<b>163</b>	67%	Unknown
New York State	4.3% (4.4% rolling average)	8,448	69%	8.9%
United States	7.17%	88,044	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Source: <a href="https://erieny.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/dd7f1c0c352e4192ab162a1dfadc58e1">https://erieny.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/dd7f1c0c352e4192ab162a1dfadc58e1</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

#### Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine Survey

- Kaleida Health is required to submit data to New York State regarding the number of medical staff, residents and fellows who received the COVID-19 vaccine
- Please complete [this mandatory survey](#) so we know your vaccination status
- If you wish to add your name to Kaleida Health's vaccine waitlist or decline the vaccine, you can find links to those forms within the survey
- This information will help Kaleida Health when requesting additional first doses of the vaccine

### Hospital Updates

#### Post-Mortem COVID-19/Influenza Testing Guidelines: Updated February 8, 2021

- Patients who expire in or en route to the hospital and have a clinical suspicion of COVID-19 or influenza as contributing to the death should have both COVID-19 and Influenza post-mortem testing performed

in the hospital. **Testing should take place before the patient's body is transferred from the department/floor**

- Update (February 8, 2021): The rapid CEPHEID (SARS COV2/FLU/RSV PCR) test should be used for post-mortem testing. This will enable PCR and one swab testing for both COVID-19 and influenza
- If there is documentation of testing for COVID-19 and influenza within 14 days of death, no re-testing is required
- No test should be administered if the next of kin objects to such testing

## Updates in the Literature

### **Association of Smoking and Cumulative Pack-Year Exposure With COVID-19 Outcomes in the Cleveland Clinic COVID-19 Registry**

- An article was published in JAMA discussing the impact of smoking on COVID-19
- The authors found “that cumulative exposure to cigarette smoke is an independent risk factor for hospital admission and death from COVID-19. Smoking is imperfectly classified in patient electronic medical records, and former smokers are potentially classified as never smokers, while pack-years may be underrecorded. However, this misclassification is likely to bias the present results toward the null, which would underestimate the association of cigarette smoking on adverse COVID-19 outcomes. The limitations on who has access to care at tertiary medical centers in the United States prevent generalizability to the whole population. The patients with complete data in this study are likely to be wealthier and have more consistent access to health care, as pack-years of smoking was typically collected during previous visits to the Cleveland Clinic. Nevertheless, we have demonstrated in this single central registry of patients who tested positive for COVID-19 that increased cumulative smoking was associated with a higher risk of hospitalization and mortality from COVID-19 in a dose-dependent manner.”
- The full article is available at:  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2775677>

### **National Trends in the US Public's Likelihood of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine—April 1 to December 8, 2020**

- An article was published in JAMA discussing COVID vaccine
- The authors found that “self-reported likelihood of getting a COVID-19 vaccine declined from 74% in early April to 56% in early December 2020, despite the early November press releases of high vaccine efficacy for 2 vaccines in phase 3 trials, although prior to Emergency Use Authorization. Low likelihood of getting a COVID-19 vaccine among Black individuals and those with lower educational backgrounds is especially concerning because of their disproportionately higher burden from COVID-19 disease.”
- The full article is available at:  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2774711>

## 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

## Learning Opportunities

UB GME Wellbeing Committee Presents:

### Patient Care: Beyond the Hospital

*Doctors and Lawyers Addressing Patient Needs Together*

**Thursday, February 11 at 5pm**

- This Thursday, the UB GME Wellbeing Committee will be hosting an event regarding patient care
- It is an opportunity to learn about services and resources available through local organizations about how and when to refer patients-what patients to refer-the role of physicians in the Medical-Legal Partnership
- To join, click [HERE](#)

Today's theme is about the power of individual acts. This week, we saw the passing of Captain Sir Thomas Moore. Capt. Moore survived service in the British Army during World War II only to succumb to coronavirus almost a century later. While Capt. Moore served with honor during WWII, he gained an international reputation for the work he did in the fight against the COVID-19. At the age of 100, he sought to raise money by walking laps across his yard – no small feat for a man of his age. While his initial goal was a humble \$1,000, he ultimately raised \$45 million and had a significant impact on the hunt for the COVID vaccine. His story is worth remembering not just for his personal contribution, but as a reminder of what we are all capable of. It is easy to think that the pandemic is something beyond our control. It is massive in scale, and controlling it will require a global response, but as healthcare workers, we have an opportunity every day to impact lives in a myriad of ways. Sometimes that will mean raising millions of dollars to help with research, but other times it will simply mean a single act that will make one person's life slightly better. This is a much quieter act of heroism but one that we should seek to embrace. The work we do matters. It matters every day. It impacts the global scale, but touches individuals' lives constantly. Take time today to pay attention to how these acts improve the world. If we all do this, together we will be one step closer to the end of the pandemic.

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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*Chief Medical Officer  
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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  
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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.