

March 9, 2021

Good afternoon,

Today is one of those days where you can almost convince yourself that spring is here. Anyone familiar with Buffalo weather knows that there are a couple of snow days still to come, but that is even more reason to get out and enjoy the sun while it is out. Today marks the 61st anniversary of the date in 1960 when Belding Scribner, MD inserted the first dialysis shunt – the Scribner Shunt – which fundamentally changed how we provide care to patients with end stage renal disease.

Mini Grand Rounds: Current Management of Benign Breast Disease



- Tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m. will mark the latest installment of the Mini Grand Round series
- This week’s conversation will address updates on the management of benign breast disease
- To access the event or to learn more:
<https://www.kaleidahealth.org/kyi/news/?i=15843>

COVID-19 Updates

Hospital Census: As of March 7, there were 36 COVID positive patients at BGMC (7 in the ICU), 20 at MFSH (3 in the ICU) and 3 at Oishei (2 in the ICU).

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

Region	Positivity Rate (7-day average)	New Cases in Past 24 Hours	ICU Reserve Capacity	Percent Vaccinated
Erie County	3.4% (3.5% rolling average)	159	62%	18.9%
New York State	3.6% (3.2% rolling average)	5,309	68%	17.7%
United States	5.97%	40,340	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Unknown</i>

Source:

[Erie County data](#)

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

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

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

CDC Announces New Guidelines for People Who Have Been Fully Vaccinated

- According to the March 8, 2020 updates, if you have been fully vaccinated:
 - You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask
 - You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
 - If you have been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms
 - However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you do not have symptoms
- These new guidelines do NOT apply in the healthcare setting, and COVID-19 protocols – universal masking and eye protection, physical distancing and frequent hand hygiene – are still in effect at all Kaleida Health facilities
- To see the full statement:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Updates in the Literature

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Hospitalizations Attributable to Cardiometabolic Conditions in the United States: A Comparative Risk Assessment Analysis

- An article was published in the journal of the American Heart Association discussing cardiometabolic conditions
- The authors found that “a substantial proportion of US COVID-19 hospitalizations appear attributable to major cardiometabolic conditions. These results can help inform public health prevention strategies to reduce COVID-19 healthcare burdens.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/JAHA.120.019259>

Acute Allergic Reactions to mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

- An article was published in JAMA discussing allergies to COVID vaccine
- The authors found in their “prospective cohort of health care employees, 98% did not have any symptoms of an allergic reaction after receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The remaining 2% reported some allergic symptoms; however, severe reactions consistent with anaphylaxis occurred at a rate of 2.47 per 10 000 vaccinations. All individuals with anaphylaxis cases recovered without shock or endotracheal intubation. “
- The full article is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777417>

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 immunity after a single dose of 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>

Effect of Ivermectin on Time to Resolution of Symptoms Among Adults with Mild COVID-19: A Randomized Clinical Trial

- An article was published in JAMA discussing ivermectin therapy
- The authors report that their “findings do not support the use of ivermectin for treatment of mild COVID-19, although larger trials may be needed to understand effects on other clinically relevant outcomes.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777389>

Atrial Fibrillation in Patients Hospitalized with COVID-19: Incidence, Predictors, Outcomes and Comparison to Influenza

- An article was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology discussing atrial fibrillation
- The authors found “AF/AFL occurs in a subset of patients hospitalized with either COVID-19 or Influenza, and is associated with inflammation and disease severity in both infections. The incidence and associated increase in mortality in both cohorts suggests that AF/AFL is not specific to COVID-19, but is rather a generalized response to the systemic inflammation of severe viral illnesses.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://www.jacc.org/doi/10.1016/j.jacep.2021.02.009>

The SARS-CoV-2 receptor-binding domain preferentially recognizes blood group A

- An article was published in the journal Blood Advances discussing COVID and blood type
- The authors found that “the RBD of SARS-CoV-2 shares sequence similarity with an ancient lectin family known to bind blood group antigens. SARS-CoV-2 RBD binds the blood group A expressed on respiratory epithelial cells, directly linking blood group A and SARS-CoV-2.”
- The full article is available at:
<https://ashpublications.org/bloodadvances/article/5/5/1305/475250/The-SARS-CoV-2-receptor-binding-domain>

Learning Opportunities

The Logistics of the COVID-19 Vaccination

- The NYS HIMSS Chapter will host a webinar on March 17, 2021, at 5:30 PM EST to discuss the logistics of the COVID-19 vaccination
- The program's focus will be on what we have learned and the way forward. Our guest speakers will share experiences from different vantage points in the healthcare environment from the frontline at three clinical sites in different parts of New York State to the national perspective. The speakers will cover supply management, vaccination schedules, healthcare disparities, data management, etc.
- To register:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/covid-19-vaccine-logistics-tickets-143805629509>

Celebration of Inclusiveness Distinguished Lecture Series



Featuring:
Maxine Hayes, MD '73

Distinguished Medical Alumna, 2021
Clinical Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at
the University of Washington School of
Medicine and Clinic Professor Emeritus of
Health Services the University of
Washington School of Public Health

- Tuesday, March 23, 2021
- 4:00 PM EST
- Via Zoom
- To learn more, click [HERE](#)

Patient Education

March COVID-19 Vaccine Update



- UBMD continues its series of patient-focused updates on COVID-19 and the vaccine
- The latest installment is available at:
<https://ubmd.com/covid-19/covid-19-community-update-webinar.html>

Today's theme is about the hope of changing of seasons. It is impossible to look out the window and not think about the arrival of spring. We are reaching the end of an unusual winter which will be remembered more for

the uncertainties caused by the pandemic than the generally mild weather we experienced. It is nice to have days like today, but it is also misleading because there is a temptation to think that this is the time to put away your shovels and winter coats. Anyone who has spent more than a couple of winters in Buffalo knows that this weather is fleeting and that there are still cold days ahead. Freezing weather and lake effect snow are practical inevitabilities, but it does not change the inevitability that spring will arrive in time. Today, we are experiencing something similar with COVID-19. The numbers are lower than they have been in months. Fewer people are becoming infected. Fewer are being hospitalized, and more of our neighbors are being vaccinated with each passing day. As the CDC notice from yesterday illustrated, we are getting closer to returning to the world we once knew. This does not mean that we have reached a point where we can throw away our masks and forget the lessons of the past 12 months; quite the contrary. Now is the time to embrace the lessons we have learned, to take confidence in the fact that what we have been doing works, and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Much like the impending spring, the end of COVID is not here today, but it will come soon enough. With patience and with discipline, we will get the community vaccinated. We will keep each other safe, and we, together, will finally close the chapter on 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.

David P. Hughes, MD, MPH
*EVP, Chief Medical Officer
Kaleida Health*

Kenneth Snyder, MD, PhD
*Chief Physician Quality Officer
Kaleida Health*

Jamie Nadler, MD
*Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety
Kaleida Health*

David Pierce, MD
*Chief Medical Officer
Buffalo General Medical Center/Gates Vascular Institute*

Michael Mineo, MD
*Chief Medical Officer
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.