

January 11, 2021

Dear Members of the DoM Community,

First, I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

With the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalization, I would like to provide all members in our department with periodic updates on information that is available to me. Some of this information is also available on the SBUH intranet portal, ThePulse, email announcements from various RSOM and SBUH leadership, and various government websites including Suffolk County and New York State. My goal is to consolidate the information so everyone can stay updated on the current situation.

1. Suffolk County case data (source = Suffolk County Government website)

As of January 9, the following data are available on COVID-19 infection in Suffolk County:

COVID-19 Testing:

- 18,104 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 2,116,240 total tests have been administered since March.
- 1,732 new cases were reported.
- 113,943 total cases have been reported since March.
- 5.4% of those tested since March have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- 8.5% tested positive on Long Island yesterday; 9.6% positive on a 7-day average.
- 9.6% tested positive in Suffolk County yesterday; 10.5% positive on a 7-day average.

Antibody Testing:

- 33,293 individuals not previously tested for COVID-19 tested positive for antibodies.
- 314,238 total have been tested for antibodies.

Fatalities:

- 15 fatalities.
- 2,453 total fatalities.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations data from January 9, 2021:

- 787 individuals were hospitalized, a decrease of 13 in 24 hours.
- 81 were new admissions.
- 134 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), an increase of 4 in 24 hours.
- 77 patients were in the ICU and intubated.
- 117 were discharged since the last report.
- 8,601 have been discharged since March 22.

Hospital Capacity:

- 3,260 hospital beds, 743 available, 23%.
- 431 ICU beds, 94 available, 22%.

2. SBUH COVID-19 hospitalization data (source = Hospital Incident Command Structure or HICS)

At midnight Sunday, SBUH census is as follows:

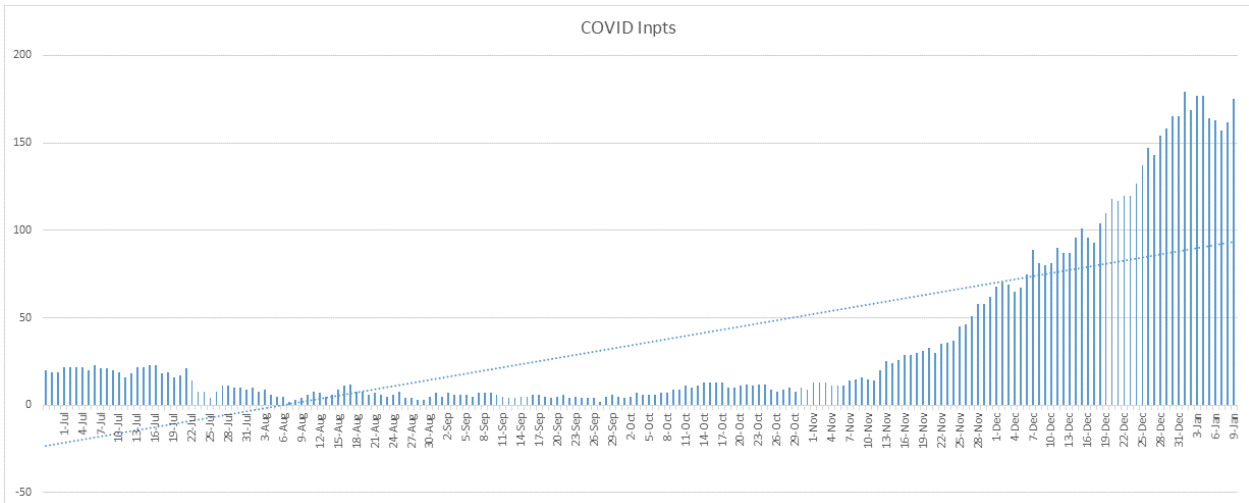
- 175 COVID + inpatients, an increase of 135 from the day before.
 - **25 patients were in ICU level of care, a decrease of 1.**
 - 15 on ventilators, a decrease of 1; ICU vent use is 60%.
 - 40 in ICR.
 - PUIs = 5.
 - COVID admissions on Sunday = 26.
 - COVID live discharges = 10.

- COVID-related deaths = 2.

- Total SBUH census = 661, 524 are Medicine/Surgery (119% capacity).
- Medicine is at the frontline in combating COVID, including Residents, Fellows, Hospitalists, General Medicine, Pulmonary/Critical Care, Infectious Disease, Cardiology, Nephrology, and many others.
- Endoscopy, cardiac cath and electrophysiology reduced to urgent or emergent cases.
- Periodic re-deployment of personnel per hospital HICS leadership.

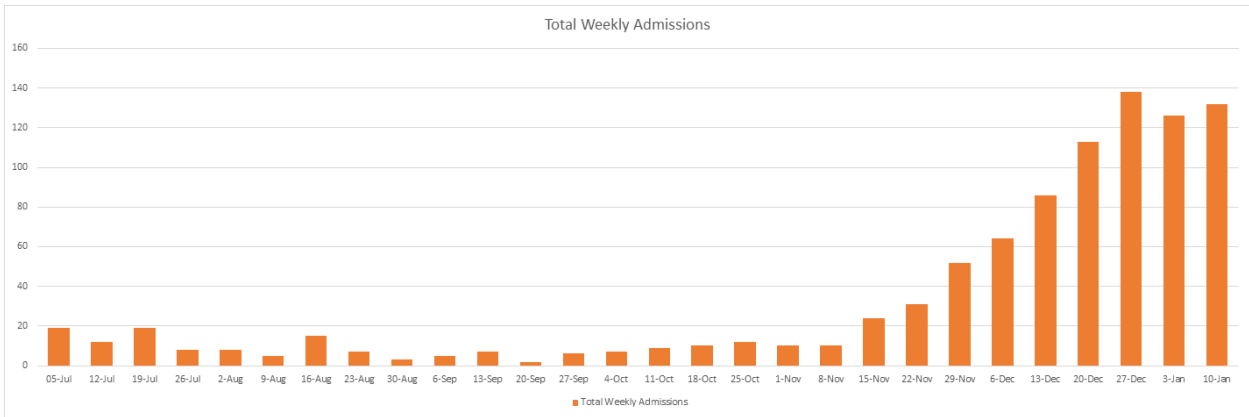
SBUH COVID Trends (source = Carolyn Santora, CNO)

Trends for # inpatients since July:



Note sharp increase towards the end of November, and particularly since Thanksgiving. The “Thanksgiving Effect” was joined by the “Christmas Effect” and now we seem to be seeing another bump perhaps related to the New Year’s Holiday.

Trends for weekly admissions since July:



3. Vaccination update (sources = CDC, NYS DOH, and SBM)

- Per CDC, total doses of vaccine distributed in the U.S. = 22,137,350; total doses administered = 6,688,231 (30%).
- For New York state, total doses = 1,208,900; administered = 434,802 (36%).

- As of today, the State of New York has broadened the eligibility of vaccine recipients to include Phase 1b. For a detailed description of eligibility of Phases 1a and 1b, please go to: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine>.
- For periodic updates on the vaccine program at SBUH, please check the intranet portal, ThePulse, email communications from Dr. McGovern, and email invitations for appointments for eligible individuals in SBM. The most recent email from Dr. McGovern on January 9 is included here for those who were not on the recipient list):

As you may have heard, Governor Cuomo announced last night that people over 75 years old and some essential workers will be eligible for COVID 19 vaccination on Monday. These include:

- *Teachers and education workers (may be only K to 12 awaiting further information)*
- *First responders*
- *Public safety workers*
- *Public transit workers*
- *People over 75 years*

The state has a site where an individual can provide information about themselves and see if they are eligible for vaccination. As of today this link is not resulting a message that some over 75 years of age is eligible so it does not seem to be updated yet. In general, when the algorithm in the link determines one is eligible a list of PODs near where the person lives is provided and they can sign up for an appointment. This link is as follows:

- <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

The state has also designated regional hubs to manage vaccination efforts. We are part of the Long Island hub which is being led by Northwell Health. We are submitting data to this hub daily but have not been notified of what, if any, PODs this hub will be managing or asking us to manage. We were also asked directly by DOH on Friday to work with them to host a POD on our campus. Those plans are actively being worked on. Should we host such a POD we will be responsible for staffing it and it would start up very soon. Therefore, any of our personnel who are willing to volunteer to staff a POD should wait to hear more about this initiative as we will need our volunteers here. A communication formally seeking volunteers will be sent in the next day or so.

*As of Friday, SBUH, SBELIH and SBSH have each administered every first dose of vaccine allocated to us. The only vaccine we are due to receive on Monday are second doses that will be given to those due for their second dose next week. We have not been notified that we will receive any additional first doses this week. Therefore, **we have no vaccine on hand for anyone**, including 1b persons who may be eligible.*

A new communication for the patient portal is being drafted but the information literally changes hourly.

We will centrally manage the pre-booking of vaccines to our hospitals and outpatient sites that registered to receive vaccine. The outpatient allocations will be distributed in PODs that we will run in appropriate settings. At the moment no outpatient site has received any doses and direction for how to complete the pre-booking forms received today will be pushed to the relevant people who have to submit the forms.

Finally, please be aware that more people seem to experience symptoms after the second dose of vaccine, or more exaggerated symptoms than after the first. This is why efforts were made to vaccinate

in staggered cohorts so not everyone in a single area would be feeling unwell at the same time. However, there is potential for this to be disruptive to staffing and we ask that everyone be flexible in making whatever adjustments are necessary to ensure continued functioning of all clinical areas.

4. Mandatory pooled surveillance testing (source = Collette Brown, Chief Human Resource Officer)

All ***Stony Brook University Hospital staff, FSA hospital colleagues and School of Medicine clinical faculty*** are required to participate in ongoing pooled COVID surveillance testing. The anterior nasal swab (ANS) is a gentle, noninvasive short swab. It is only 0.75 inches long in comparison to the 6-inch long (nasopharyngeal) swab used in other types of COVID testing. The individual gently rotates the soft polyester tip around the anterior walls of each nostril for approximately 10 seconds.

Below is the testing schedule for the weeks beginning on Jan. 11 and Jan. 18. Testing days and hours have been expanded and are as follows:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 5:45 am to 3:15 pm
 Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:45 am to 5 pm

Last Names Beginning with:	# Staff/Faculty	Next Testing Dates			
A - K	4,680	Monday, Jan. 11	Tuesday, Jan. 12	Wednesday, Jan. 13	Thursday, Jan. 14
L - Z	4,758	Monday, Jan. 18	Tuesday, Jan. 19.	Wednesday, Jan. 20	Thursday, Jan. 21

- **No appointment is needed, and no pre-registration is needed.**
- If you are on vacation, out sick or have another extenuating circumstance that prevents you from getting tested in your assigned week, you are required to get tested in the first week of your return.
- If you have previously tested positive for COVID-19, do not report for testing. You will be exempt from the testing requirement.
- If you previously tested positive for COVID-19 and you have NOT previously informed Employee Health & Wellness of your positive test result, please contact Employee Health at (631) 444-7767 right away.
- ***If you have received the COVID vaccine, you are still required to participate in pooled surveillance testing.***

For non-clinical faculty and staff, please follow instructions from the University for pooled testing (<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/comingback/covidtesting.php>).

I hope the information provided here is useful to you in keeping track of the progression of the pandemic. Thank you for your attention and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Vincent W. Yang, MD, PhD
 Simons Chair of Medicine
 Professor of Medicine, Biomedical Informatics, and Physiology and Biophysics
 Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University