

January 18, 2021

Dear Members of the DoM Community,

Here is a weekly update on the status of COVID-19 as it relates to our community. Some of this information is also available on the SBUH intranet portal, *ThePulse*, periodic email announcements from SBU and SBM leadership, and 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.

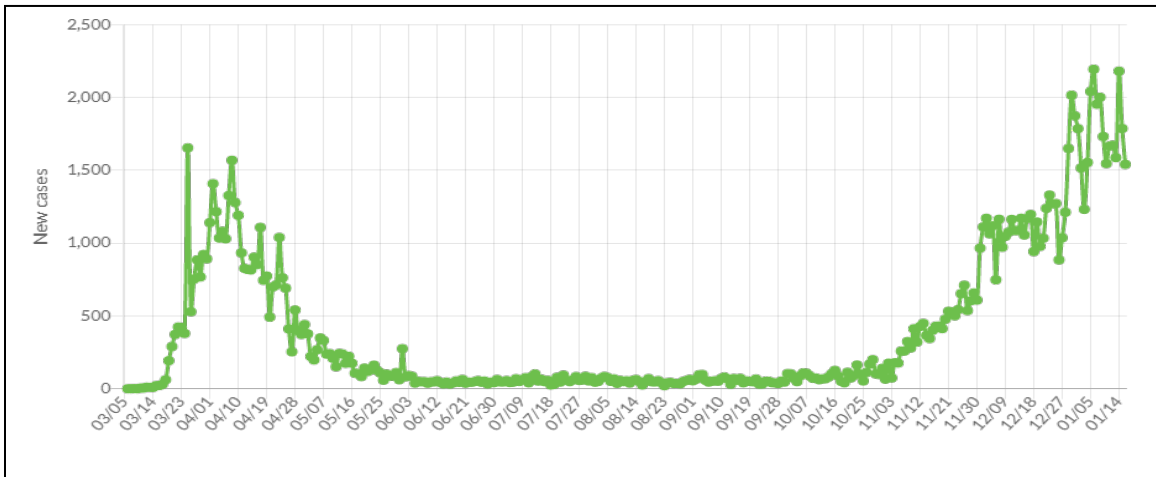
1. Suffolk County case data (source = Suffolk County Government website)

As of January 16, the following data are available on COVID-19 infection in Suffolk County.

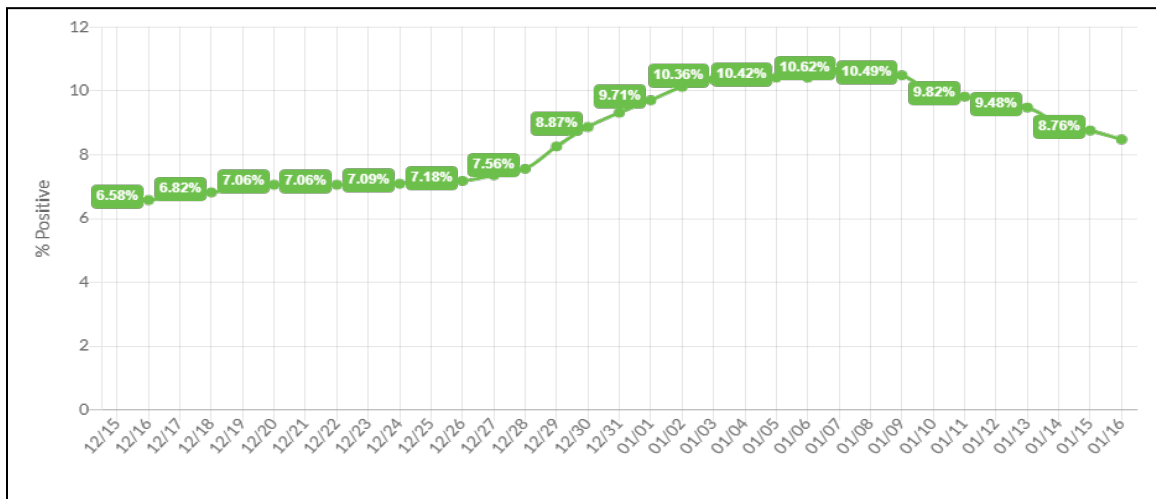
COVID-19 Testing:

On January 16,

- 20,408 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 2,257,458 total tests have been administered since March.
- 1,541 new cases were reported (see figure below for all-time trend).



- 125,925 total cases have been reported since March.
- 5.6% of those tested since March have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- 7.6% tested positive in Suffolk County yesterday; 8.5% positive on a 7-day average (see figure below for one- month trend).



Antibody Testing:

- 33,956 individuals not previously tested for COVID-19 have tested positive for antibodies.
- 317,928 total were tested for antibodies.

Fatalities:

- 15 fatalities.
- 2,453 total fatalities.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations data from January 16, 2021:

- 820 individuals were hospitalized, a decrease of 3 in 24 hours.
- 91 were new admissions.
- 139 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decrease of 8 in 24 hours.
- 84 patients were in the ICU and intubated.
- 126 were discharged since the last report.
- 9,248 discharged since March 22.

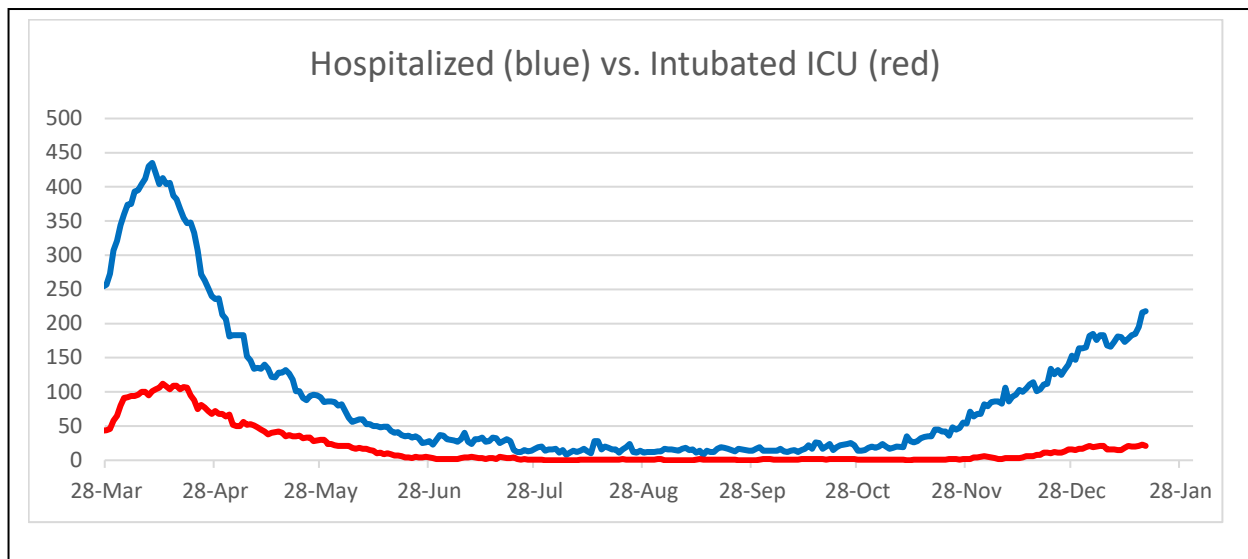
Hospital Capacity:

- 3,214 hospital beds, 705 available, 22%.
- 430 ICU beds, 95 available, 22%.

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

At midnight Sunday, SBUH census is as follows (see figure below for all-time trend of hospitalization).

- 215 COVID + inpatients, an increase of 40 from one week before.
 - 35 patients were in ICU level of care; 21 on ventilators.
 - 37 in ICR.
 - PUIs = 5.
 - COVID admissions on Sunday = 15.
 - COVID live discharges = 15.
 - COVID-related deaths = 2.



- Total SBUH census = 662; 531 are Medicine/Surgery (122% 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.

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

- Per CDC, total doses of vaccine distributed in the U.S. = 31,161,075; total doses administered = 12,179,180 (39%).
- For New York state, total doses = 1,884,325; administered = 757,466 (40%).
- Percentage of New Yorkers vaccinated = 3.5%.
- The State of New York has broadened the eligibility of vaccine recipients to include Phase 1b (which includes individuals age 65 and older). For a detailed description of eligibility of Phases 1a and 1b, please go to: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine>.
- As of now, **the State has the sole authority to allocate vaccines to designated PODs (point of dispenses) and schedule appointment.** Our call center and clinic staff have been instructed to refer all patients to the NYS website for information on eligibility and appointment scheduling (<https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>).
- The following section contains detailed information on the current status of vaccine program (taken from *ThePluse*).

January 15 – Information on New York State Vaccines

We are aware of news related to some of the challenges experienced by those eligible employees attempting to schedule appointments in the New York State vaccination process.

Here are important facts to help employees understand and navigate the process when they are eligible to receive a vaccine:

- ***For Stony Brook Medicine employees who are healthcare providers eligible for phase 1a, we currently do not have any vaccine supply.*** However, if and when we receive a new allocation of vaccines, the hospital will resume vaccination PODS for those in phase 1a who have not yet been vaccinated. If you are in phase 1a and already received a first-dose vaccine at one of the hospital's vaccination PODs, we have been informed that we will be receiving the second-dose vaccine allocations.
- *Stony Brook University's Research and Development Park on Stony Brook Road will serve as a designated New York State point of distribution (POD) for the COVID-19 vaccine.*
- ***The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is the sole authority for determining vaccine eligibility and provides guidance on how it should be distributed.*****
- *Vaccines will be distributed only to eligible people who have made appointments through the NYSDOH Eligibility website. No one should arrive at the POD without an appointment.*
- ***NYSDOH has the sole authority to schedule appointments.***
- *NYSDOH opens up appointments as supplies are available.*
- *Appointments at the POD in Stony Brook are based on vaccine supplies being allocated by NYSDOH to that POD.*
- *Open appointments at the POD location in Stony Brook are not reflected on the website unless the NYDOH allocates appointment.*
- *Stony Brook employees have no special access to appointments at the NYSDOH POD in Stony Brook. Currently, anyone who is eligible in phase 1a or 1b may sign up for an open appointment.*
- *NYSDOH has the sole authority to allocate the State's vaccine supply to PODs across the State, and supply is extremely limited. Stony Brook does not independently have access to the vaccine.*
- *Stony Brook University is committed to providing vaccinations for as long as necessary and as long as vaccines are supplied by NYSDOH. Stony Brook University currently receives no information about when appointments at the POD located in Stony Brook will be made available on the State site. Our best advice is to check the site regularly, if eligible.*
- *Stony Brook University must follow all NYSDOH guidelines and procedures.*

- *** Recently, NYS expanded eligibility for second phase (1b) recipients, adding several new categories, including those 65 years and older, K-12 educators, college instructors of in-person classes and college students placed as student teachers in K-12 schools.*
- *We understand this is a worrying time for our broader community, and we will endeavor to keep you informed as the situation changes. In addition to the Eligibility site above, here are two “go to” pages for more information from New York State: NYSDOH “What You Need to Know” web page and ny.gov/vaccine to sign up for an appointment.*

4. Pooled surveillance testing (source = SBM Coronavirus Update email)

- 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. Please attend the required Anterior Nasal Swab COVID surveillance testing in the Health Sciences Galleria on Level 3. Testing hours have been expanded and are now offered on **Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:45 am to 3:15 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:45 am to 5 pm**. Currently, employees are required to be tested every other week, but beginning the week of Jan. 25, this screening requirement will change to weekly. This increased frequency is in response to the rapid community spread of the disease and will help us feel more secure in knowing that we are doing everything possible to stay safe. **No appointment is needed, and no pre-registration is needed.**
- 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.
- 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,

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