

February 1, 2021

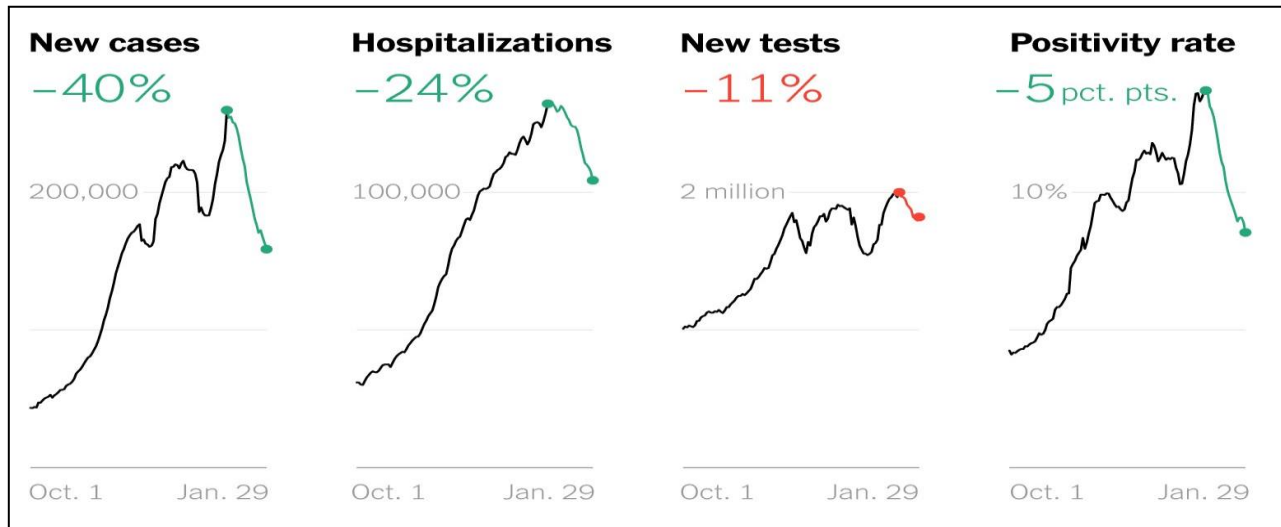
Dear Members of the DoM Community,

Good morning to you on this snowy Monday.

Here is a weekly update on the status of COVID-19 as it relates to our community. Much of this information is also available on the SBUH intranet portal, *ThePulse*, periodic email announcements from SBU and SBM leadership, New York Times, 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. Nationwide COVID-19 Data (source = NYT database)

Daily COVID toll in the U.S. remains enormous, but cases are falling.



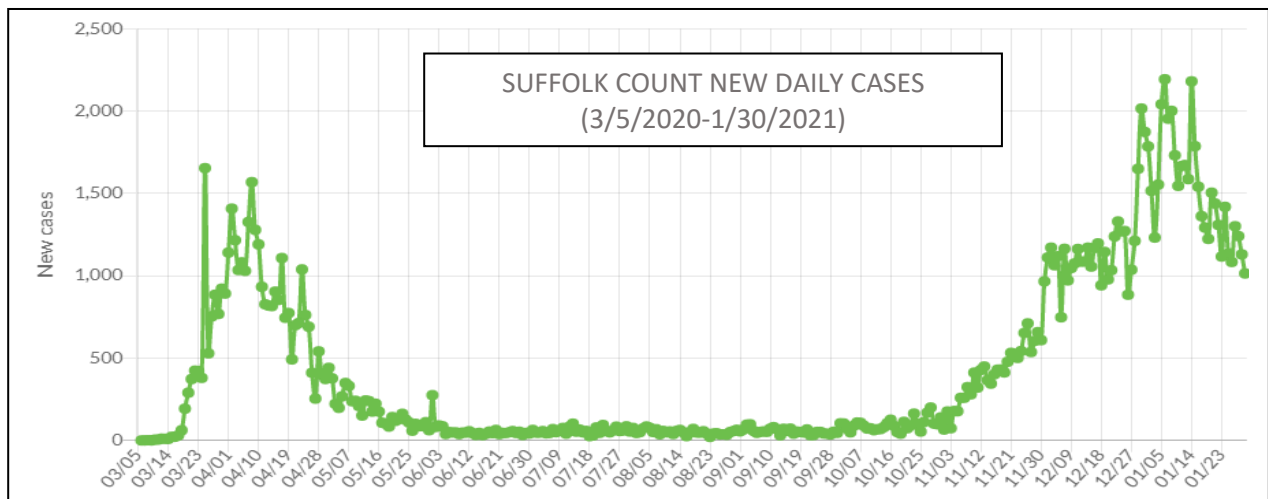
2. Suffolk County Case Data (source = Suffolk County Government website)

As of January 30, the following data are available on COVID-19 infection in Suffolk County.

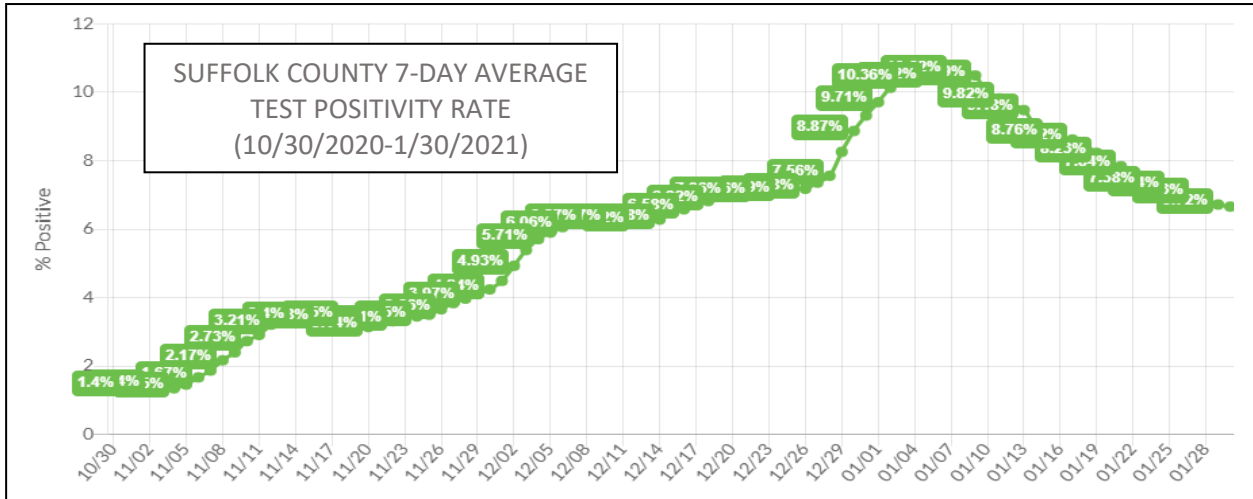
COVID-19 Testing:

On January 30,

- 17,429 COVID-19 tests were administered.



- 2,507,688 total tests have been administered since March.
- 1,104 new cases were reported (see figure below for all-time trend beginning March 1, 2020).
- 143,498 total cases have been reported since March.
- 5.7% of those tested since March have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- 5.8% tested positive in Suffolk County yesterday; 6.7% positive on a 7-day average (see figure below for three-month trend).



Antibody Testing:

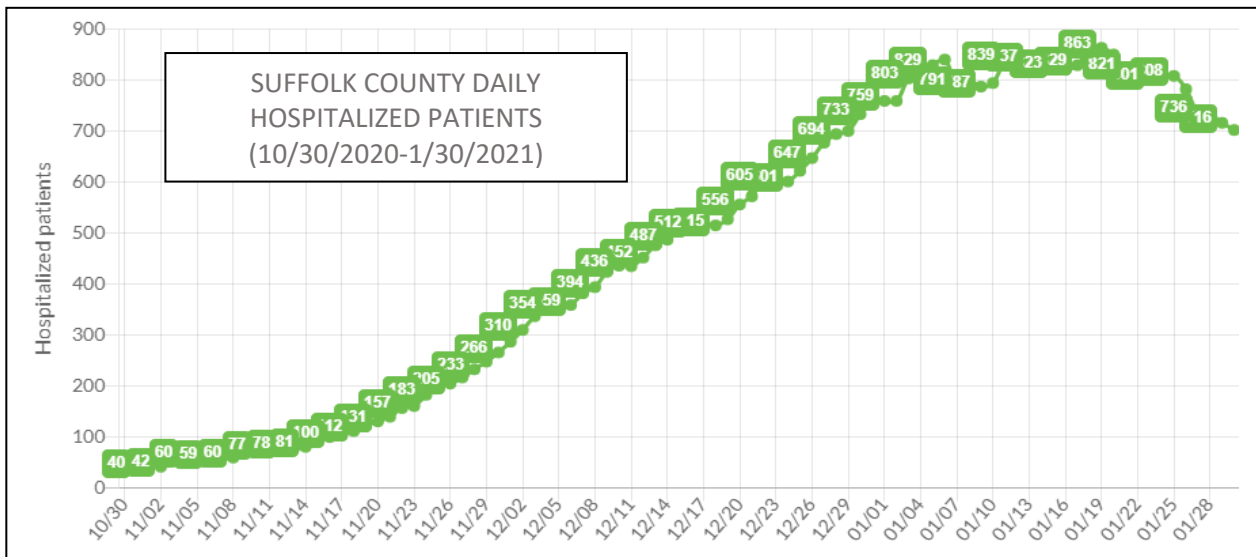
- 36,047 individuals not previously tested for COVID-19 have tested positive for antibodies.
- 327,350 total were tested for antibodies.

Fatalities:

- 13 fatalities.
- 2,794 total fatalities.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations:

- 702 individuals were hospitalized, a decrease of 14 in 24 hours (see figure below for three-month trend).



- 55 were new admissions.
- 127 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), an increase of 4 in 24 hours.
- 88 patients were in the ICU and intubated.

- 78 were discharged since the last report.

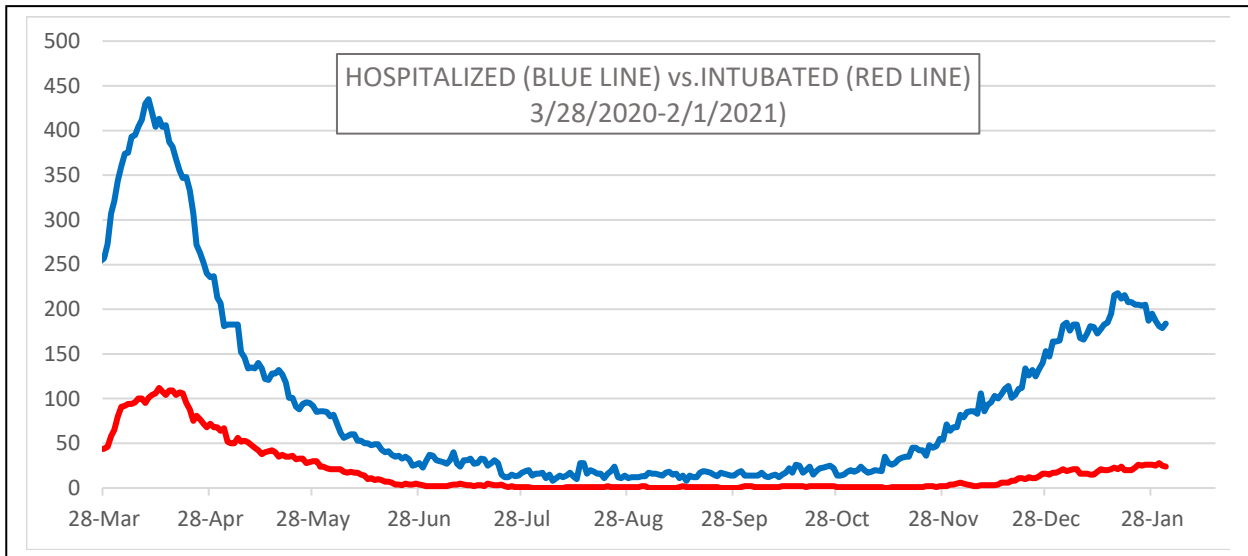
Hospital Capacity:

- 3,198 hospital beds, 768 available, 24%.
- 436 ICU beds, 91 available, 21%.

3. SBUH COVID-19 Hospitalization Data (source = Hospital Incident Command Structure or HICS)

At midnight Sunday, January 31, SBUH census is as follows (see figure below for all-time trend of hospitalization).

- 176 COVID + inpatients, a decrease of 18 from one week before (200).
 - 32 patients were in ICU level of care; 24 on ventilators.
 - 27 in ICR.
 - PUIs = 8.
 - COVID admissions on Sunday = 15.
 - COVID live discharges = 15.
 - COVID-related deaths = 0.
- Total SBUH census = 636; 513 are Medicine/Surgery (115% capacity).



4. Vaccination Program Update (sources = CDC, NYS DOH, and SBM)

As of January 31, the status of COVID vaccine rollout is as follows.

COVID-19 Vaccine Distributed and Administration (as of 1/31/2021)					
Region	Total Distributed	Total Administered	Percent Administered	Percent Population (one shot)	Percent Population (two shots)
US	49,933,250	31,123,299	62%	7.6%	1.7%
NY	2,932,775	1,875,462	64%	7.6%	1.7%
LI	288,360*	205,038	71%	6.8%**	N/A

*LI distributed doses do not include those distributed by the Federal Long Term Care Facility program.
 **Long Islanders who received either one or two shots.

- 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/>).

5. **UPDATED Return-to-Work Policy Following COVID-19 Exposure** (source = ThePulse; January 30)

- The NYS Department of Health issued a health advisory on Jan. 7 directing healthcare personnel (HCP) who have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 but are asymptomatic to quarantine for 10 days. In order to ensure adequate staffing for our patients and each other, and in light of the many safety protocols in place, including the use of PPE, the hospital has been granted a waiver allowing exposed healthcare workers to continue working during the 10-day quarantine period.
- HCPs who are asymptomatic and have had exposure to or been in contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within the past 10 days may return to work, as long as the following conditions are met:
- HCPs must report their exposure to the Exposure Hotline at (631) 638-1396. The hotline staff will calculate the HCP's time period for required testing and health monitoring and will communicate this information to the HCP and their supervisor.
- HCPs must produce evidence of a negative test in order to return to work after an exposure. Subsequent to the first negative test, HCPs must also get tested every two to three days and provide evidence of negative test results to their supervisor throughout the monitoring period. HCPs may use the hospital's COVID-19 testing.
- HCPs must self-monitor for symptoms and conduct daily temperature checks through day 14.
- At any time, if the HCP working under these conditions develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should immediately stop work and isolate at home. All staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be immediately referred for diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 and must notify Employee Health and Wellness at (631) 444-7767.
- HCPs must quarantine when not at work consistent with the Department of Health's guidance on quarantine.
- The safety of our staff is our utmost concern, which is why this stringent testing protocol will be used to ensure that those who may be positive are not working.
- If you have any questions about returning to work, please call the Exposure Hotline at (631) 638-1396.

6. **Weekly Employee Anterior Nasal Swab Testing** (source = *ThePulse*; January 26)

- ***Anterior nasal swab (ANS) COVID surveillance testing is required on a weekly basis for all Stony Brook University Hospital staff, FSA hospital colleagues and School of Medicine clinical faculty.***
- 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.
- Testing takes place in the ***Health Sciences Galleria (Level 3) on Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:45 am to 3:15 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:45 am to 5 pm. There is no testing on Fridays.***
- Appointments and pre-registration are not needed. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past six weeks, do not report for testing. If it is after six weeks since you tested positive, you are required to receive ANS testing as long as you do not have symptoms. If you have received the COVID vaccine, you are still required to participate in COVID surveillance testing.
- Employees who are working remotely on a full-time basis are not required to participate in this testing.
- Employees who work in off-site locations may participate in this testing if it is practical for them to do so.

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

7. Symptomatic Employee Testing (source = *ThePulse*, January 26)

- The new program to provide COVID-19 testing in the hospital for employees who are symptomatic has been going well. **As a reminder, any employee with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 must not report to work and should call Employee Health and Wellness at (631) 444-7767, open daily from 8 am to 4 pm, to have their symptoms evaluated.**
- Employees who are determined to be symptomatic will receive a link from Employee Health to schedule an appointment for the same or next day. When Employee Health is closed, employees should let their managers know about their symptoms, and their managers will send them a link to schedule an appointment. However, employees still need to notify Employee Health that they are going for testing. Employees who are experiencing side effects as a result of the COVID-19 vaccine should use the link from their follow-up instructions to directly schedule an appointment for testing.
- Employees are asked to arrive for testing at their scheduled times, and not before, to allow for the registration process to occur. COVID-19 testing is available in the hospital Monday through Saturday. Employees are given a PCR test and can expect to receive their test results within 24 hours by phone using the number they provided at booking.

8. Support Resources for Employees (source = *ThePulse*, SBM and SBU websites)

With the pandemic persisting for close to a year, each of us has been affected in different ways. Many are seeking ways to cope and adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic and to recover from the difficulties in this journey. The following websites may provide some resources and tools that provide tips and insights with which individuals may consider visiting.

Confidential COVID Help Line and Support Website

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health has developed a confidential help line to get employees connected to appropriate support and other resources. Please call (631) 632-CHAT (2428). For specific tips and skills for taking care of your mental health, please visit <https://stonybrookmedicine.edu/covid19support>.

Code Lavender

This code provides a rapid response to the emotional needs of staff after unexpected or adverse events. Any employee can call a silent code (not called overhead) by dialing the operator (3-2-1) and requesting a Code Lavender. A callback number, the unit and the name of the individual requesting the code is given to the operator, and a responder will return your call. This service is available 24/7.

Become a Wellness Champion

At Stony Brook Medicine, we aim to create an environment that promotes and fosters mental health and wellness. We are seeking unit Wellness Champions to join our Employee Support Team to support mental health and wellness initiatives throughout the hospital. Learn more and fill out an application form.

Employee Assistance Program

Our Employee Assistance Program has an evolving employee resource guide for managing the COVID-19 pandemic and can be contacted for more specific requests (Hardship Fund, emotional support, etc.). You can reach out to EAP directly: eap@stonybrook.edu or (631) 632-6085

Resilience at The Brook

All employees are welcomed to take a break in this safe, quiet environment – a place to rest, receive emotional support and re-energize with snacks and beverages. Resilience at The Brook is open 24/7 to all Stony Brook Medicine employees.

Healthier U

Healthier U, Stony Brook University's employee wellness program, is designed to address your total well-being — mind, body and spirit. Visit the website to explore upcoming wellness events and programs: stonybrook.edu/healthieru. Watch video sessions on mindfulness meditation, nutrition and stress reduction, among other topics on Healthier U's Facebook page.

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

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