

COVID-19 UPDATE – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Dear Members of the DoM Community,

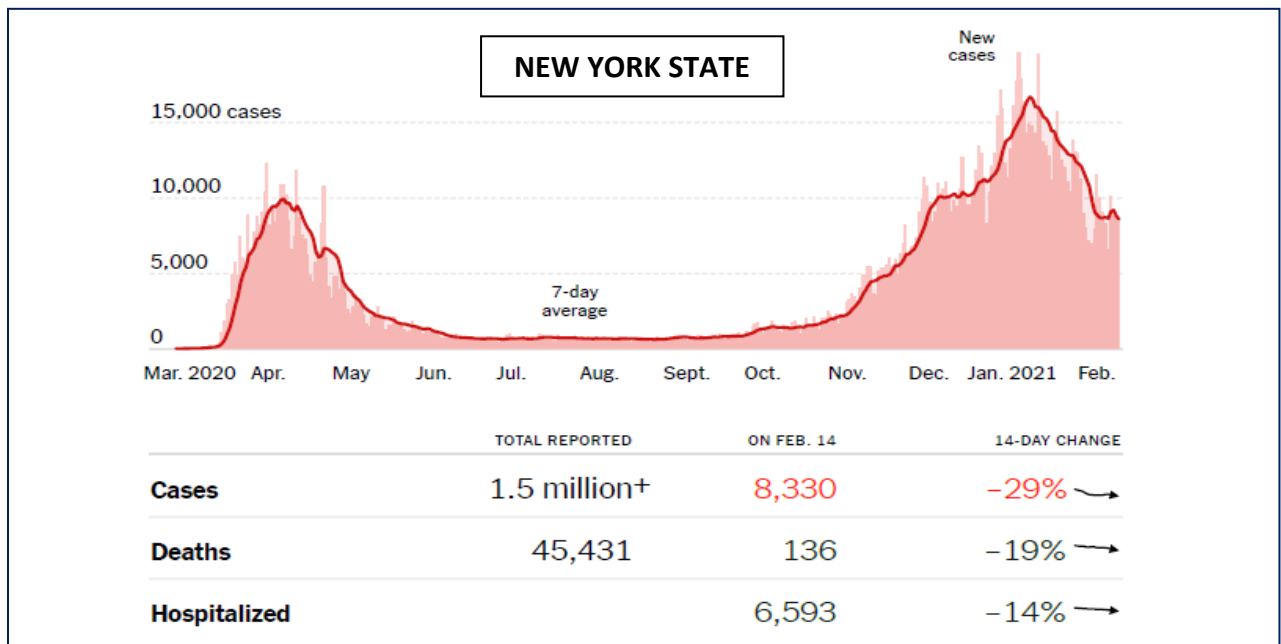
Good morning to you on this Presidents’ Day. Here is a weekly update on the status of COVID-19 as it relates to the country and our community.

1. Nationwide COVID-19 Data

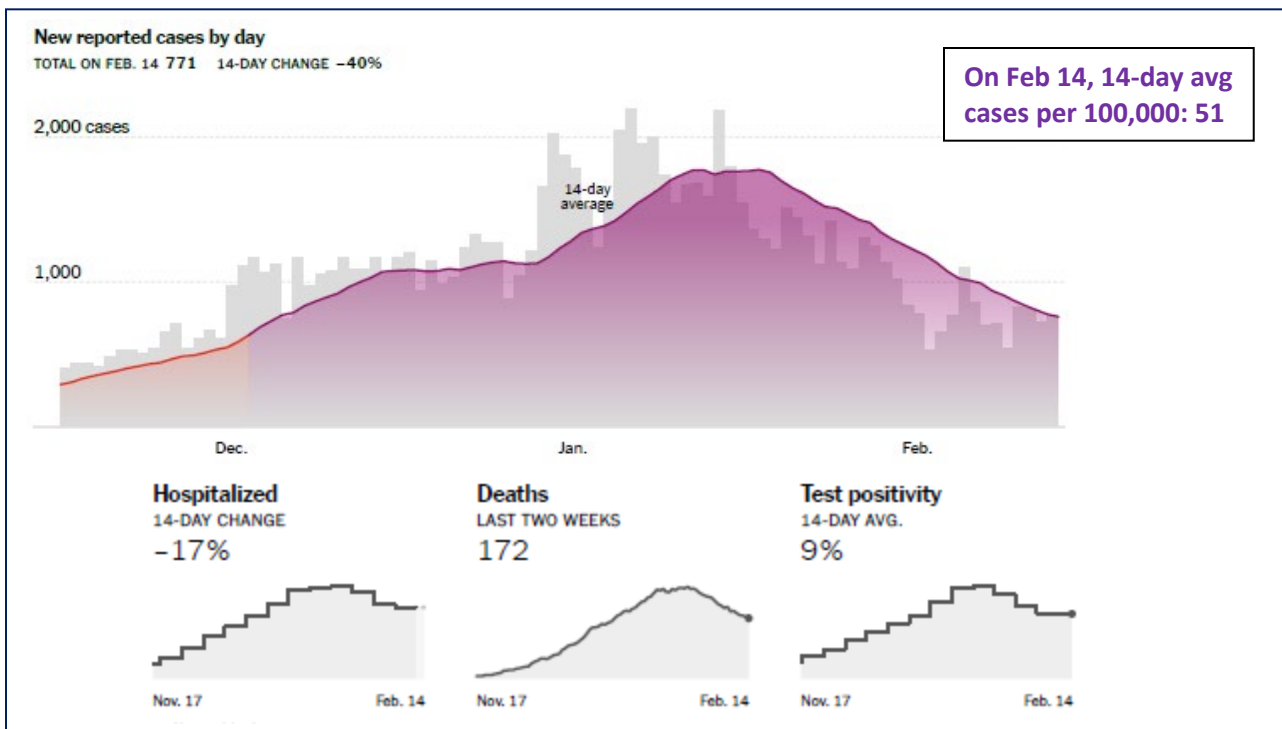
U.S. daily COVID are continuing to decline.



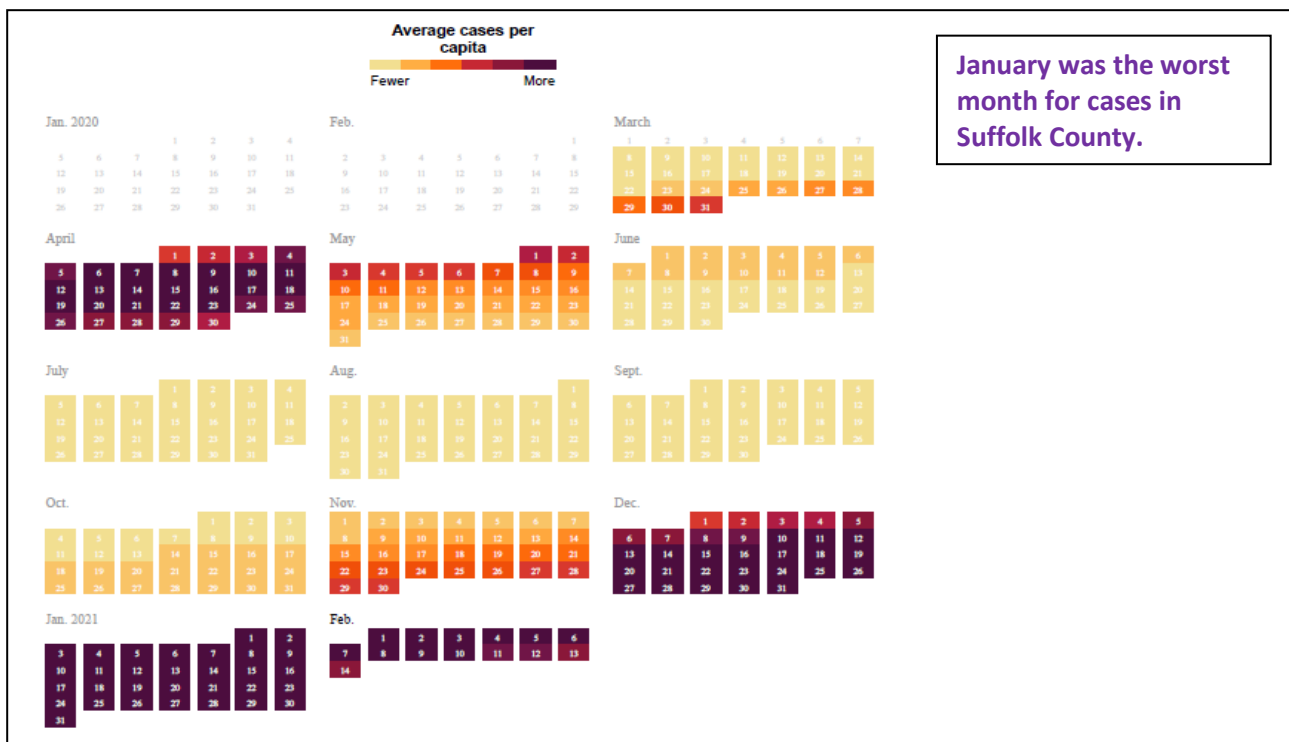
2. As are new case numbers in New York State.



3. As are Suffolk County case numbers but the region remains at an **Extremely High-Risk** level.



A county is at an **extremely high-risk** level if it reported more than 640 cases per 100,000 people during the past two weeks. This is equivalent to a **daily rate of 46 cases per 100,000 people**.



COVID-19 Testing:

On February 14,

- 16,673 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 2,622,281 total tests have been administered since March.
- 771 new cases were reported.
- 154,098 total cases have been reported since March.
- 5.7% of those tested since March have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.
- 4.6% tested positive in Suffolk County yesterday; 4.7% positive on a 7-day average.

Antibody Testing:

- 38,018 individuals not previously tested for COVID-19 have tested positive for antibodies.
- 335,107 were tested for antibodies.

Fatalities:

- 2,953 total fatalities, an increase of 74 from one week before.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations:

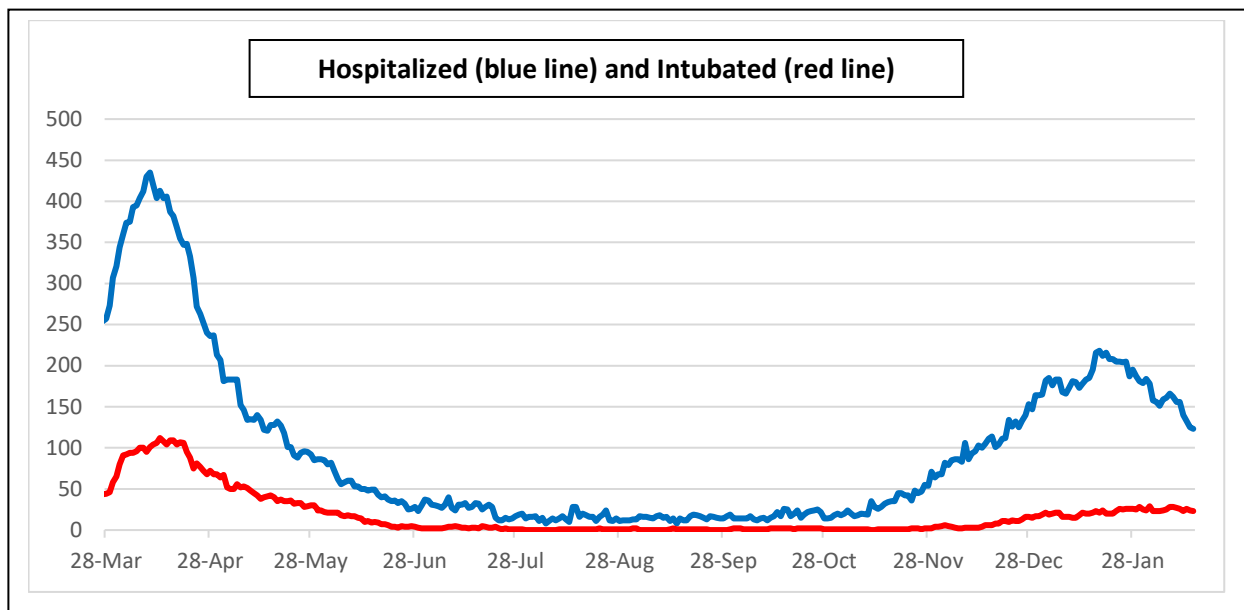
- 545 individuals were hospitalized, a decrease of 102 from one week before.
- 42 were new admissions.
- 117 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decrease of 23 from a week ago.
- 87 patients were in the ICU and intubated.

Hospital Capacity:

- 3,207 hospital beds, 843 available, 26%.
- 440 ICU beds, 95 available, 22%.

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

At midnight Sunday, February 14, SBUH census is as follows (see figure below for all-time trend of hospitalization).



- 123 COVID + inpatients, a decrease of 42 from one week before.
 - 27 patients were in ICU level of care; 23 on ventilators; 18 in ICR; PUIs = 9.
 - COVID admissions on Sunday = 11.
 - COVID live discharges = 13.
 - COVID-related deaths = 0.
- Total SBUH census = 636; 505 are Medicine/Surgery (114% capacity).
- As the census improves, the hospital will continue to free up procedural floors.

- Plan is being developed for licensed independent practitioners (LIPs) coverage for the COVID ICUs.
- Resident deployment will decrease this week with the closure of 7W and an additional hospitalist team.

5. Vaccination Program Update (sources = CDC and NYS DOH)

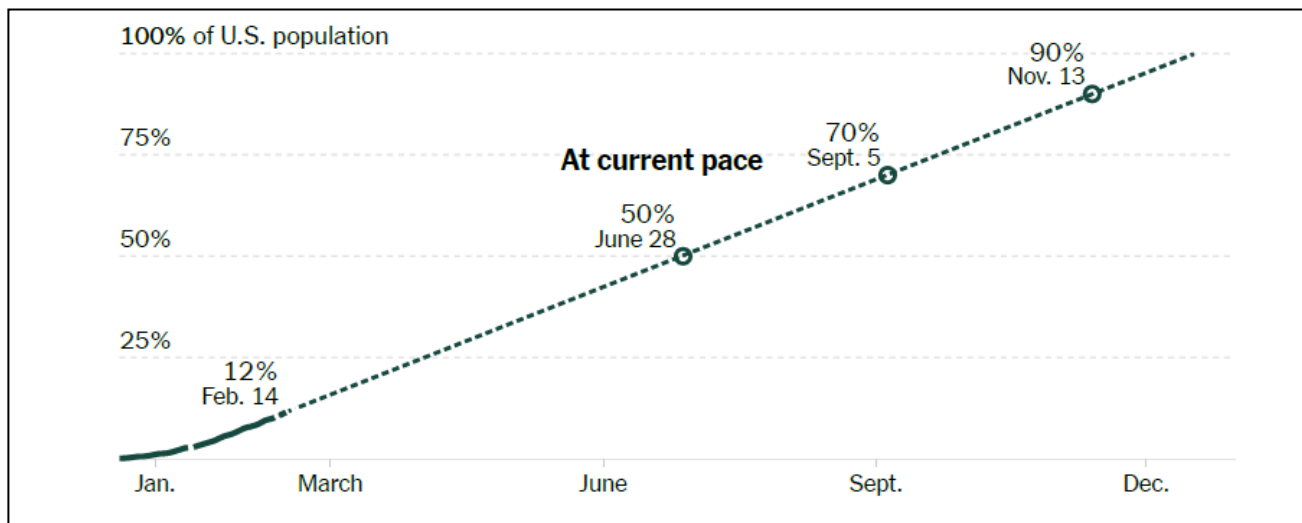
As of February 14, the status of COVID vaccine rollout is as follows.

COVID-19 Vaccine Distributed and Administration (as of 2/7/2021)					
Region	Total Distributed	Total Administered	Percent Administered	Percent Population (one shot)	Percent Population (two shots)
US	70,057,800	52,884,356	75%	12%	4.2%
NY	3,969,050	2,925,186	74%	10%*	4.3%
LI	418,005**	358,825	86%	12%***	N/A

*New York state ranks #33 among states in percent population receiving at least one shot.
 **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.

When a given share of the U.S. population might be at least partially vaccinated.

The current vaccination rate is based on average daily increase in first doses administered over the past week. Average daily first doses in last 7 days: 959,024



Beginning February 15th, individuals with comorbidities and underlying conditions are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine. The list is subject to change as additional scientific evidence is published and as New York State obtains and analyzes additional state-specific data. Adults over the age of 16 with the following conditions due to increased risk of moderate or severe illness or death from the virus that causes COVID-19 are eligible:

- Cancer (current or in remission, including 9/11-related cancers);
- Chronic kidney disease;
- Pulmonary Disease, including but not limited to, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma (moderate-to-severe), pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, and 9/11 related pulmonary diseases;
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities including Down syndrome;

- Heart conditions, including but not limited to heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, or hypertension (high blood pressure);
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) including but not limited to solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, use of other immune weakening medicines, or other causes;
- Severe Obesity (BMI 40 kg/m²), Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²);
- Pregnancy;
- Sickle cell disease or Thalassemia;
- Type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus;
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain);
- Neurologic conditions, including but not limited to Alzheimer's Disease or dementia; and
- Liver disease.

Priority Groups Continuing to Be Eligible:

- Healthcare Workers
 - High-risk hospital and FQHC staff, including OMH psychiatric centers.
 - Health care or other high-risk essential staff who come into contact with residents/patients working in LTCFs and long-term, congregate settings overseen by OPWDD, OMH, OCFS and OASAS, and residents in congregate living situations, run by the OPWDD, OMH, OCFS and OASAS.
 - Staff of urgent care provider.
 - Staff who administer COVID-19 vaccine.
 - All Outpatient/Ambulatory front-line, high-risk health care workers of any age who provide direct in-person patient care, or other staff in a position in which they have direct contact with patients (i.e., intake staff). This includes, but is not limited to, individuals who work in private medical practices; hospital-affiliated medical practices; public health clinics; specialty medical practices of all types; dental practices of all types; dialysis workers; diagnostic and treatment centers; occupational therapists; physical therapists; speech therapists; phlebotomists and blood workers; behavioral health workers; midwives and doulas; and student health workers.
 - All front-line, high-risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients, including those conducting COVID-19 tests, handling COVID-19 specimens and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Certified NYS EMS provider, including but not limited to Certified First Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Technician – Critical Care, Paramedic, Ambulance Emergency Vehicle Operator, or Non-Certified Ambulance Assistant.
- County Coroner or Medical Examiner, or employer or contractor thereof who is exposed to infectious material or bodily fluids.
- Licensed funeral director, or owner, operator, employee, or contractor of a funeral firm licensed and registered in New York State, who is exposed to infectious material or bodily fluids.
- Home care workers and aides, hospice workers, personal care aides, and consumer-directed personal care workers.
- Staff and residents of nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, and adult care facilities.

- New York residents age 65 and older (Pharmacies will only vaccinate this population)
- First Responder or Support Staff for First Responder Agency
 - Fire
 - State Fire Service, including firefighters and investigators (professional and volunteer)
 - Local Fire Service, including firefighters and investigators (professional and volunteer)
 - Police and Investigations
 - State Police, including Troopers
 - State Park Police, DEC Police, Forest Rangers
 - SUNY Police
 - Sheriffs' Offices

- County Police Departments and Police Districts
 - City, Town, and Village Police Departments
 - Transit of other Public Authority Police Departments
 - State Field Investigations, including DMV, SCOC, Justice Center, DFS, IG, Tax, OCFS, SLA
- Public Safety Communications
 - Emergency Communication and PSAP Personnel, including dispatchers and technicians
- Other Sworn and Civilian Personnel
 - Court Officer
 - Other Police or Peace Officer
 - Support or Civilian Staff for Any of the Above Services, Agencies, or Facilities
- P-12 Schools
 - P-12 school (public or non-public) or school district faculty or staff (includes all teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, school administrators, paraprofessional staff, and support staff including bus drivers)
 - Contractor working in a P-12 school (public or non-public) or school district (including contracted bus drivers)
 - Licensed, registered, approved or legally exempt group childcare
- In-Person College Faculty and Instructors
- Employees or Support Staff of Licensed, Registered, Approved or Legally Exempt Group Childcare Settings
- Licensed, Registered, approved or legally exempt group Childcare Provider
- Public Transit
 - Airline and airport employee
 - Passenger railroad employee
 - Subway and mass transit employee (i.e., MTA, LIRR, Metro North, NYC Transit, Upstate transit)
 - Ferry employee
 - Port Authority employee
 - Public bus employee
- Public Facing Grocery Store Workers, including convenience stores and bodegas
- Incarcerated individuals age 65+ or those with comorbidities or underlying conditions.
- Individual living in a homeless shelter where sleeping, bathing, or eating accommodations must be shared with individuals and families who are not part of your household.
- Individual working (paid or unpaid) in a homeless shelter where sleeping, bathing, or eating accommodations must be shared by individuals and families who are not part of the same household, in a position where there is potential for interaction with shelter residents.
- Restaurant employees,
- Restaurant delivery workers, and
- For-hire vehicle drivers, including taxi, livery, black car, and transportation network company drivers

6. Weekly Employee Anterior Nasal Swab Testing (source = *ThePulse*; February 10)

- As a reminder, all Stony Brook University Hospital staff, FSA hospital colleagues and School of Medicine clinical faculty are required to participate in weekly anterior nasal swab COVID surveillance testing in the Health Sciences Galleria on Level 3. Testing hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:45 am to 3:15 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:45 am to 5 pm.
- Appointments and pre-registration are not needed. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past six weeks, please 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.

- ***You are still required to participate in the surveillance testing even if you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. In fact, with the new COVID variants, surveillance testing is more important than ever.***
- For non-clinical faculty and staff, please follow instructions from the University for pooled testing (<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/comingback/covidtesting.php>).

7. Internal Medicine Adopt-a-Resident Program

- Faculty are invited to participate in an **Adopt-a-Resident program**, which is an appreciation event for our Stony Brook internal medicine residents, medicine-pediatrics residents, and neurology interns.
- Our residents have had a very challenging year with so many changes to both their work and home life due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, there have been fewer opportunities for interactions between faculty and residents with so many virtual meetings and conferences. The Adopt-a-Resident program will provide faculty the opportunity to get to know one of our talented residents and show our deep appreciation for their clinical care. This is a time of year when many of our trainees experience burnout, which has been compounded by the ongoing deployment of our residents during the pandemic. February 26 is national Thank A Resident Day.
- To participate in the **Adopt-a-Resident program**, we ask you to use this link to complete a very short and simple form: [Click Here for Signup Link](#)
- Once we assign you a resident, we ask you to contact your resident at least once per week between February 21 – March 20. We encourage you to be creative in these interactions and below are some ideas:
 - Arrange a virtual or in-person meeting (socially distanced).
 - Ask about favorite hobbies.
 - Ask about career plans following residency.
 - Arrange a coffee date virtually (Starbucks gift cards are always popular).
 - Ask your resident where they like to go on their day off and send a gift card to their favorite restaurant.
- The goal of this program is more about your personal support rather than gifts, so please do not spend more than \$50 over the 4 weeks. Your engagement and interest in our residents will be greatly appreciated, and I strongly encourage each of you to sign up today and adopt one or more of our 108 residents.
- Please sign up by **Tuesday February 16** so that Dr. Lane and the Chiefs can match each resident with a faculty member. You will receive a communication detailing your resident contact information as well as email reminders over these 4 weeks.

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,



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