

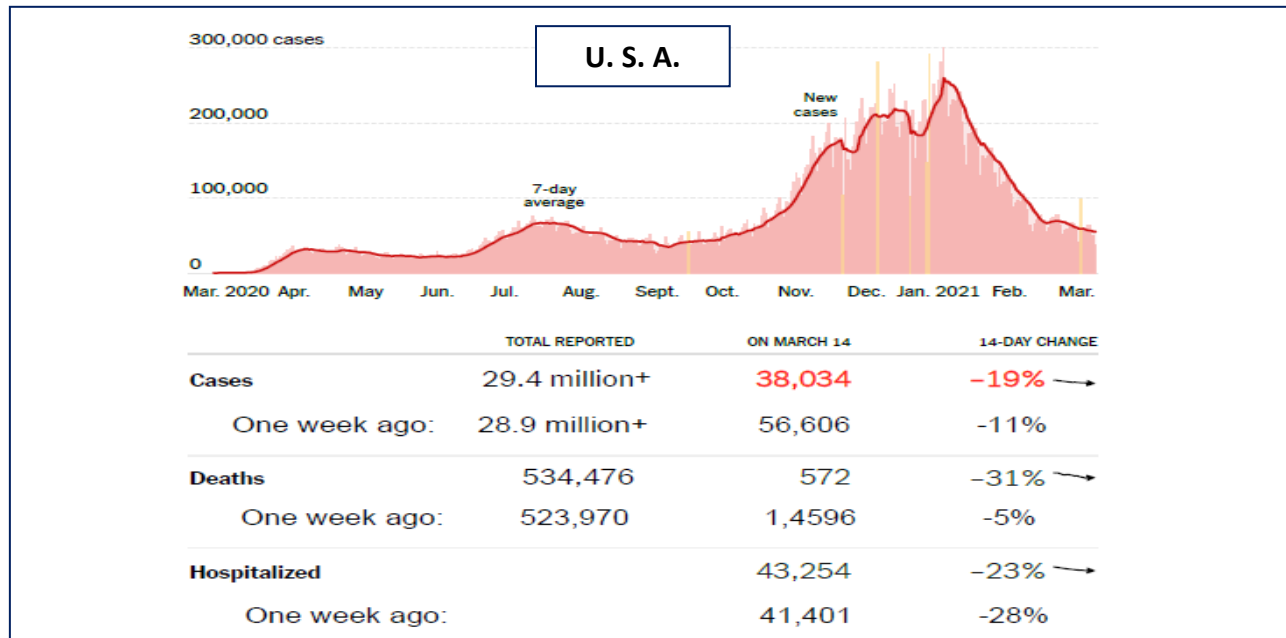
COVID-19 UPDATE – MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021

Dear Members of the DoM Community,

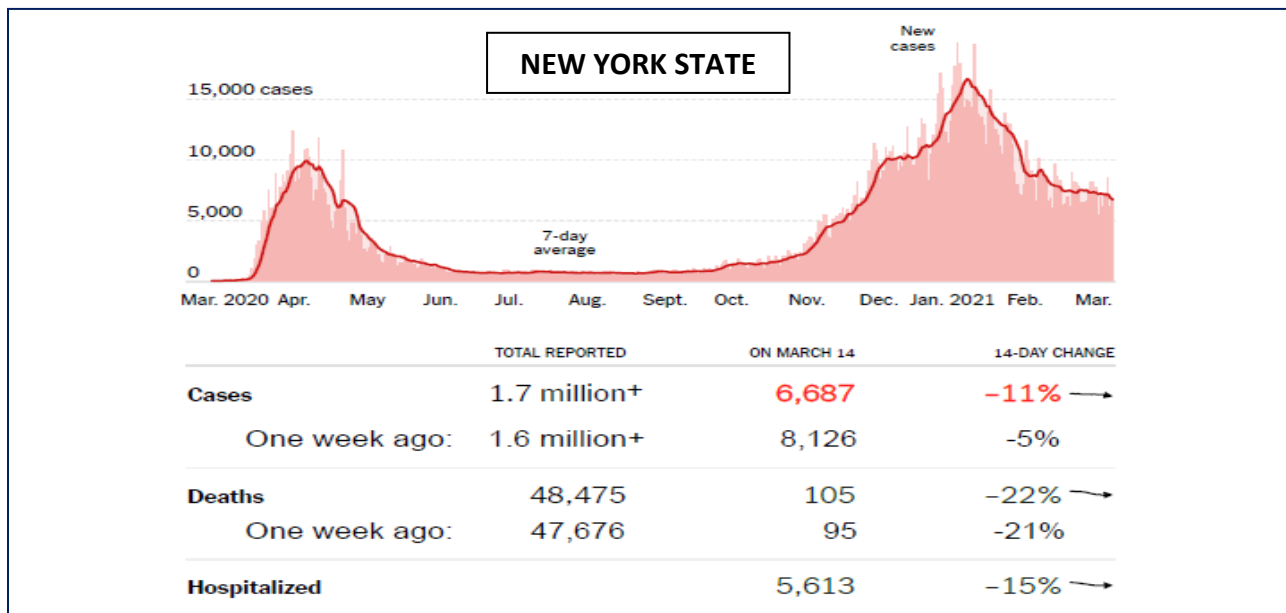
Good morning to you on this last Monday of Winter. Here are the updates on the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope they keep you informed on the pandemic's status.

1. Nationwide COVID-19 Data

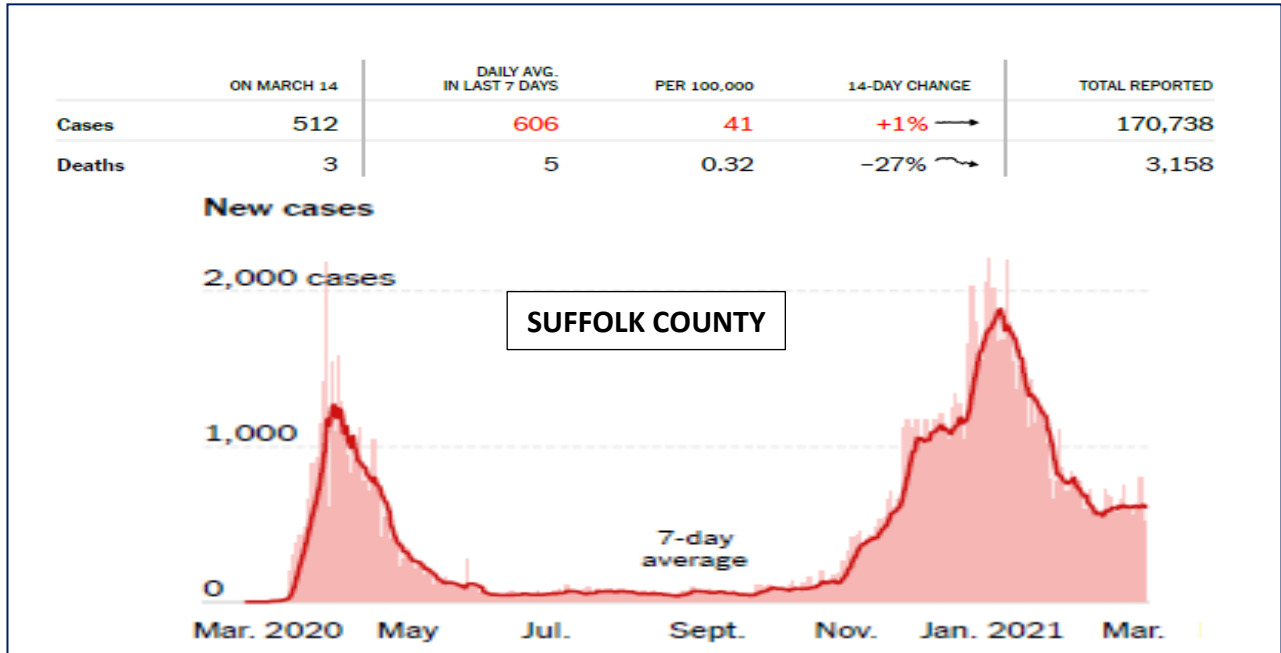
There has been good progress in the rate of decline of new COVID cases in the U. S. compared to a week before.



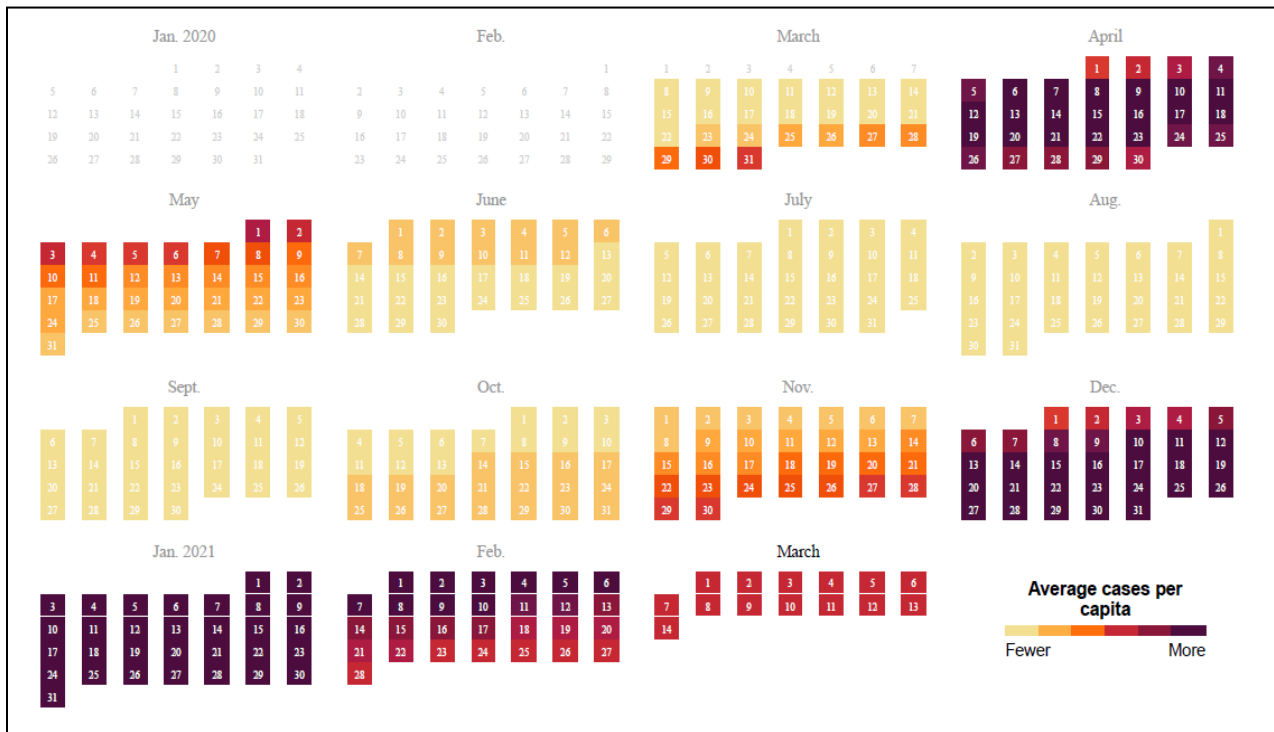
2. *New case numbers in New York State are also lower compared to a week before although New York's 7-day average of **34 per 100,000** population is second highest in the country (second to New Jersey at 41).*



3. Suffolk County remains at a **very high-risk** level at a 7-day average of **41 per 100,000** population.



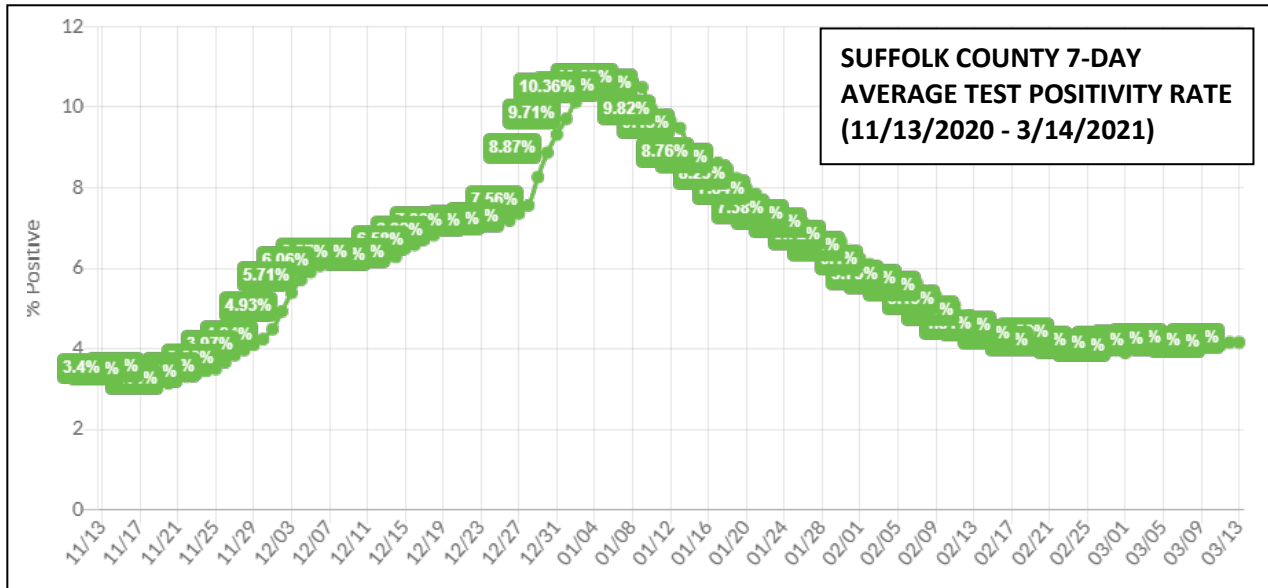
The number of days in which case numbers were highest (deep purple color in the graph below) in last April was **18 days** and that in the recent surge, **63 days**. They remained at very high levels (purple and red color) for **30 days** now.



COVID-19 Testing in Suffolk County on March 14:

- 12,533 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 512 new cases were reported.; 7-day average = 605, a decrease of 2 from one week ago.

- 170,738 total cases have been reported since March.
- 4.1% tested positive; 7-day average = 4.2%, same from a week ago (see graph below for 4-month trend).



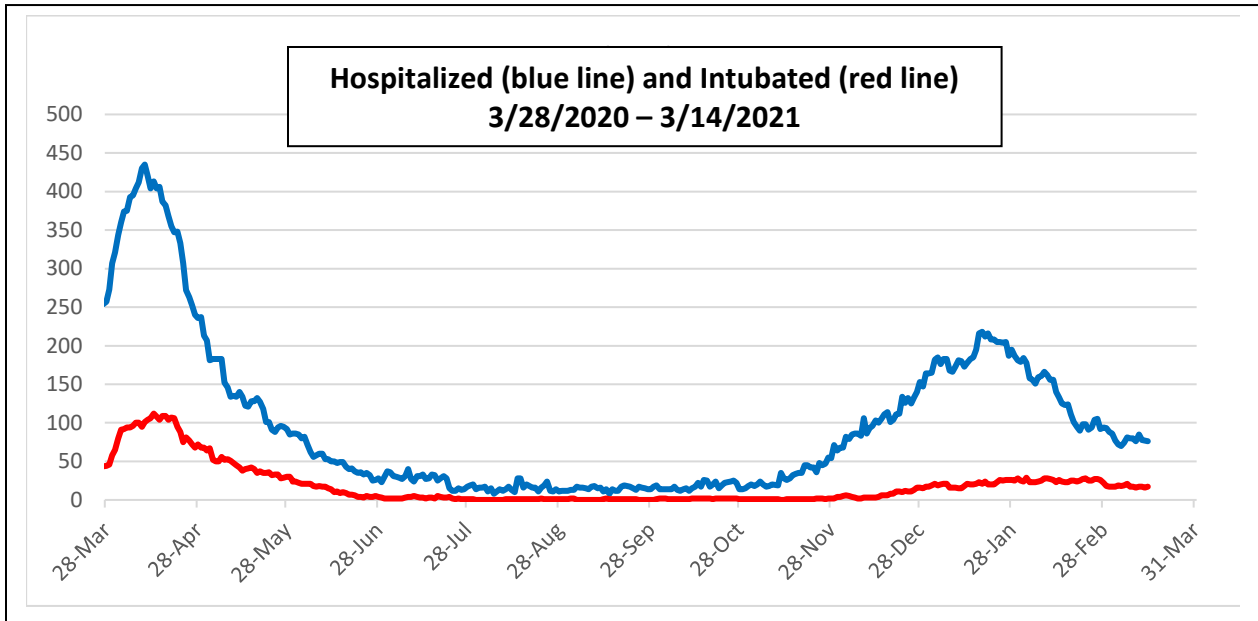
Fatalities:

- 3,158 total fatalities, an increase of 33 from one week before.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations:

- 379 individuals were hospitalized, an increase of 7 from one week before.
- 72 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decrease of 26 from a week ago.

4. Daily COVID-19 Hospitalization Data in SBUH



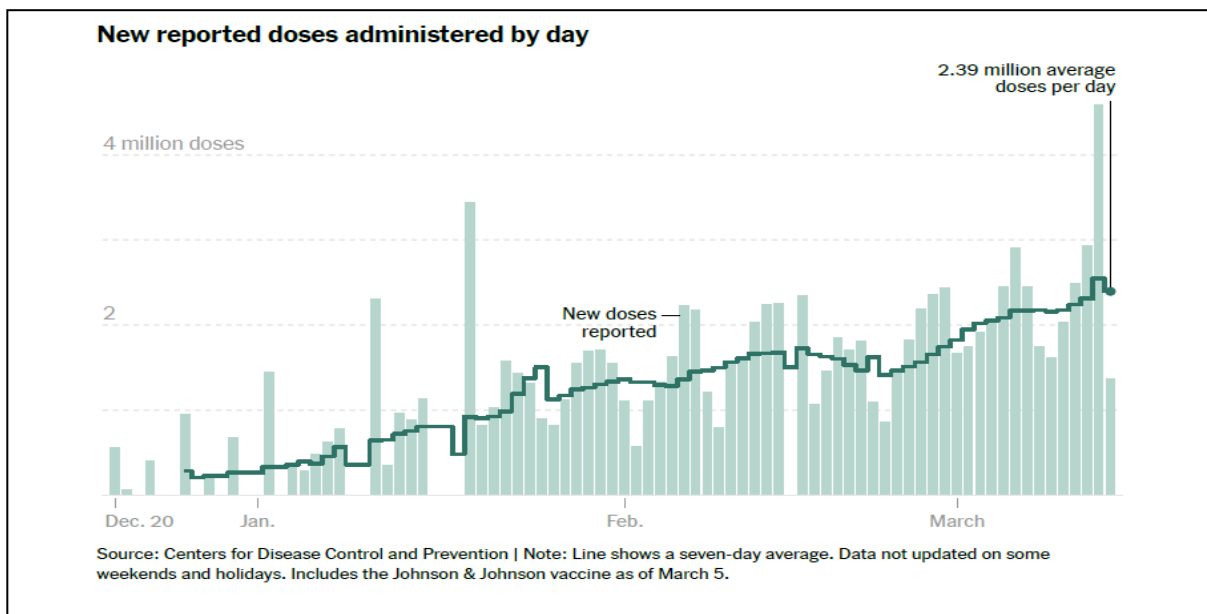
At midnight Sunday, March 14, SBUH census is as follows (see figure above for all-time trend of hospitalization).

- 76 COVID + inpatients, an increase of 2 compared to one week before.
 - 20 patients were in ICU level of care; 17 on ventilators; 16 in ICR.
 - COVID admissions on Sunday = 6.

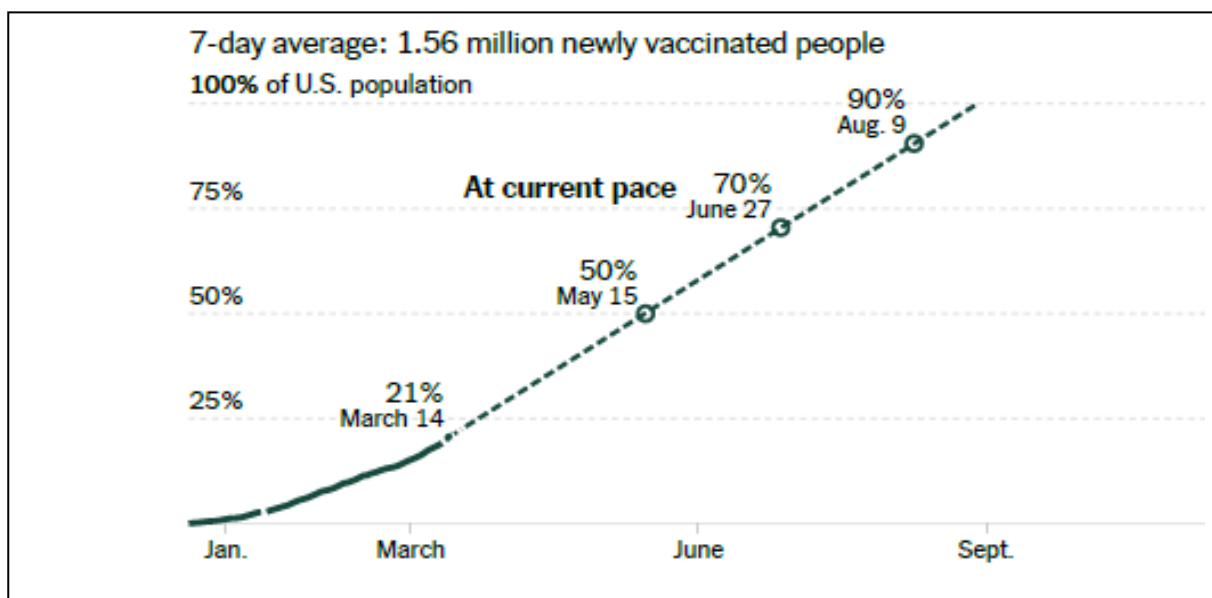
- COVID live discharges =5.
- COVID-related deaths = 0.
- ICU nurse staffing continues to remain strained with continued needs for COVID and Non-COVID ICUs.
- Need either COVID ICU census to be 16 or less to consolidate into one unit or the total COVID ICU/ICR to be 32 or less to consolidate ICU/ICR into two floors. Current totals: 20 ICU and 36 ICU/ICR.

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

On March 14, the 7-day average of COVID vaccine administered in the U.S. was 2.39 million, for a total of 107 million doses administered since the beginning of the rollout.



21% of the U.S. population have received at least one dose (NY state is at 22%). At the current rate of administration, about half of the population would be at least partially vaccinated around mid-May, and nearly all around August, assuming supply pledges are met, and vaccines are eventually available to children.



6. **Good News on Expanded Eligibility for Vaccination in New York State!** (Stony Brook University Coming Back Safe and Strong, March 11; <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/comingback/vaccine-info.php>)

New groups of employees are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines based on updated [NYS Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Program guidance](#).

- On Wednesday, March 10, the age requirement for individuals in NYS moved from 65 to 60 years old.
- Also, on March 10, **in-person essential employees working on campus** became eligible.
- And as of Wednesday, March 17, eligibility expands further to include **all public-facing public employees, including essential public-facing building service workers.**

Please check your eligibility and sign up for an appointment through [the New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\) Eligibility website](#), where appointments are listed for our on-campus site at the R&D Park as well as other State vaccination locations. *And speaking of locations ...*

As supplies from the federal government and, in turn, New York State, continue to become more readily available, [the Governor's Office announced 10 new vaccination locations](#), including one at our Southampton campus. Details to follow on when this site will open and specific location information.

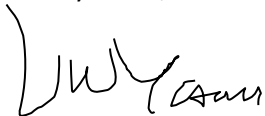
Good News Aside ... Please Continue to Keep Us Safe

With more people getting vaccinated, certain relaxing CDC restrictions and warmer weather tempting a lot of us to perhaps 'drop our guard' a little in the COVID-19 battle, please don't. We stayed open, and accomplished all we did, by practicing healthy habits and following important protocols. And that will be our best path forward. Even if you are vaccinated, [we still require ongoing testing](#) to ensure the health and well-being of our entire campus community. We also continue to emphasize the importance of all of the following 'best practices' until SUNY guidance suggests otherwise:

- Wash your hands or use sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from other people.
- Always wear a mask, including in classrooms, conference rooms and other spaces, even when six feet social distancing exists.
- Cover coughs and sneezes and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in your workplace every day.
- Avoid using other people's phones, desks, offices, tools, and equipment.
- Sanitize shared items after use.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid large gatherings.

Once again, I hope the information provided here is useful to you in keeping track of the progression of the pandemic. While the increasing rollout of COVID vaccines is an encouraging trend, we are still not out of the woods. It is important for everyone to remain vigilant until the storm passes. Please keep safe and healthy.

Sincerely Yours,



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