

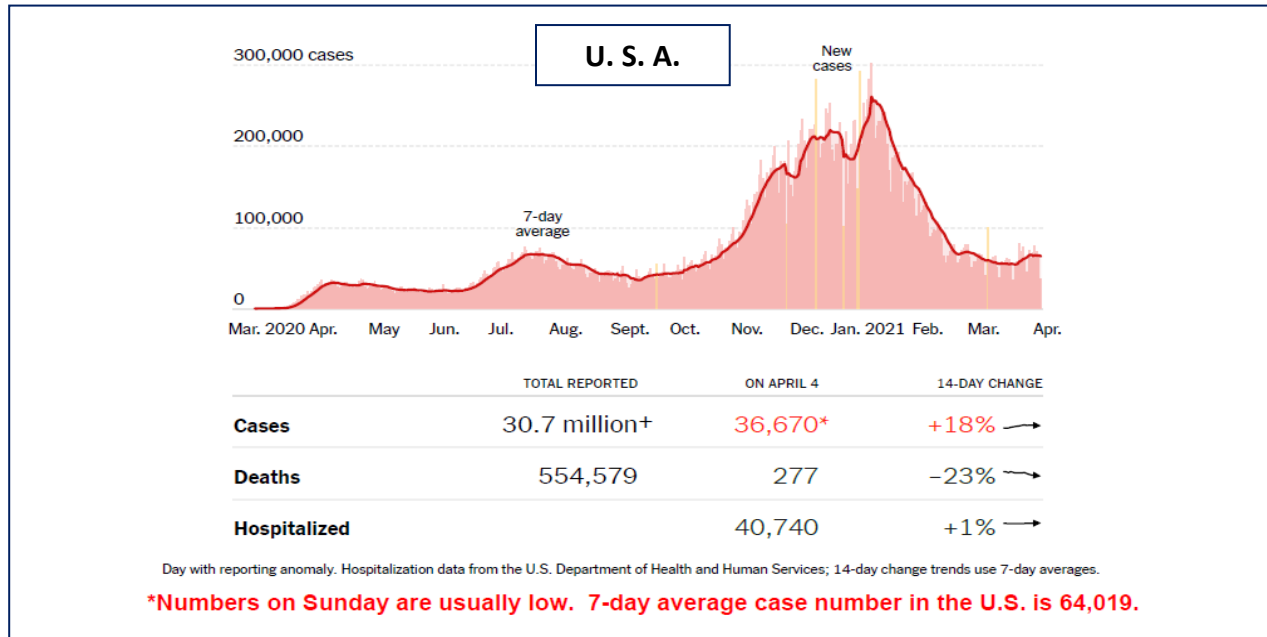
# COVID-19 UPDATE – MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

Dear Members of the DoM Community,

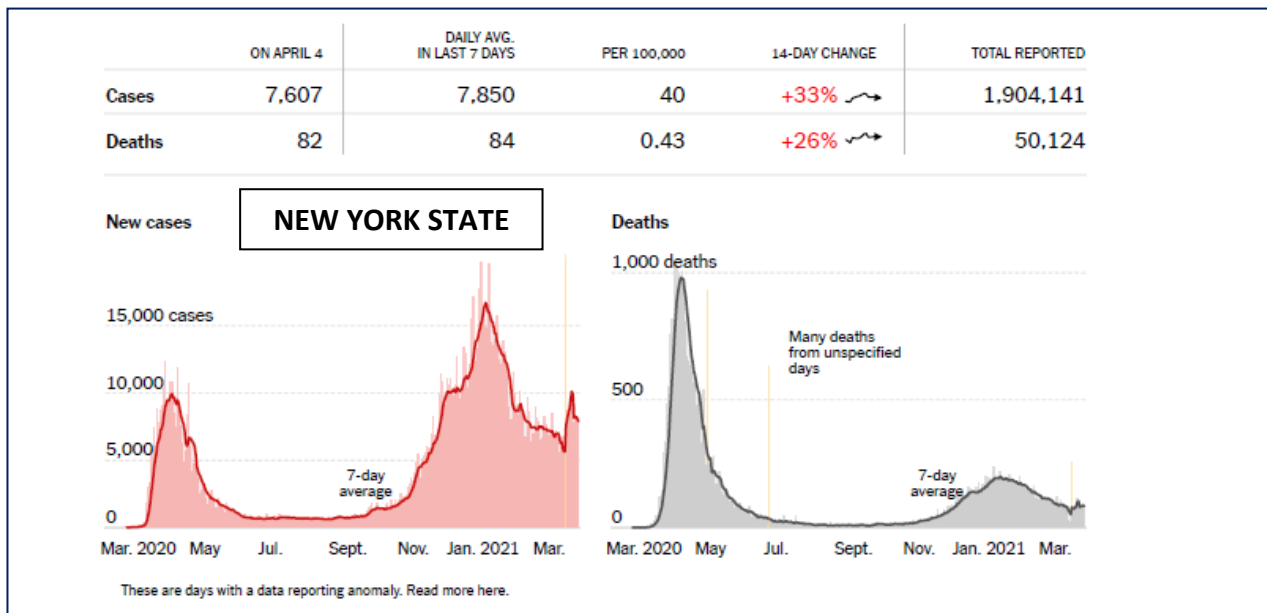
Good morning to you on this Monday after the Easter holiday. I hope you had a chance to celebrate Easter or Passover, or just enjoying the weekend. Here are the updates on the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope they keep you informed on the pandemic’s status.

## 1. Nationwide COVID-19 Data

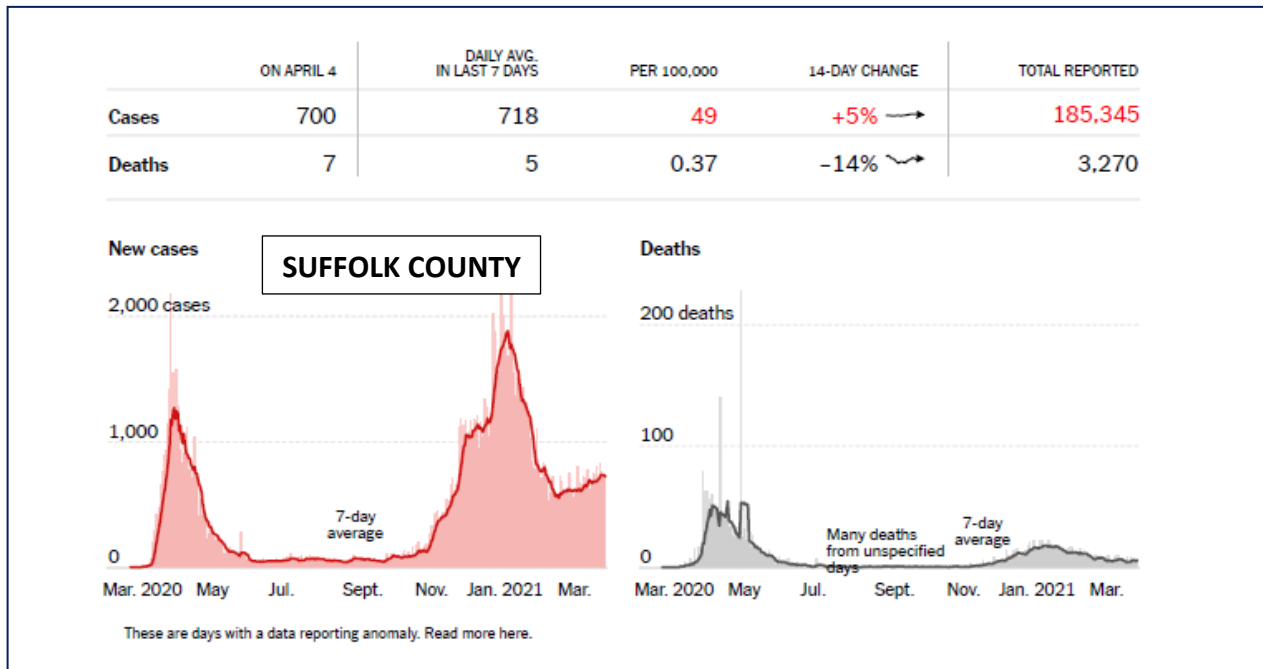
*New cases in the U.S. are on the rise.*



## 2. New case numbers in New York State are also on the rise (the recent spike was in part due to a data reporting anomaly on March 24 when several days’ worth of data were combined.)

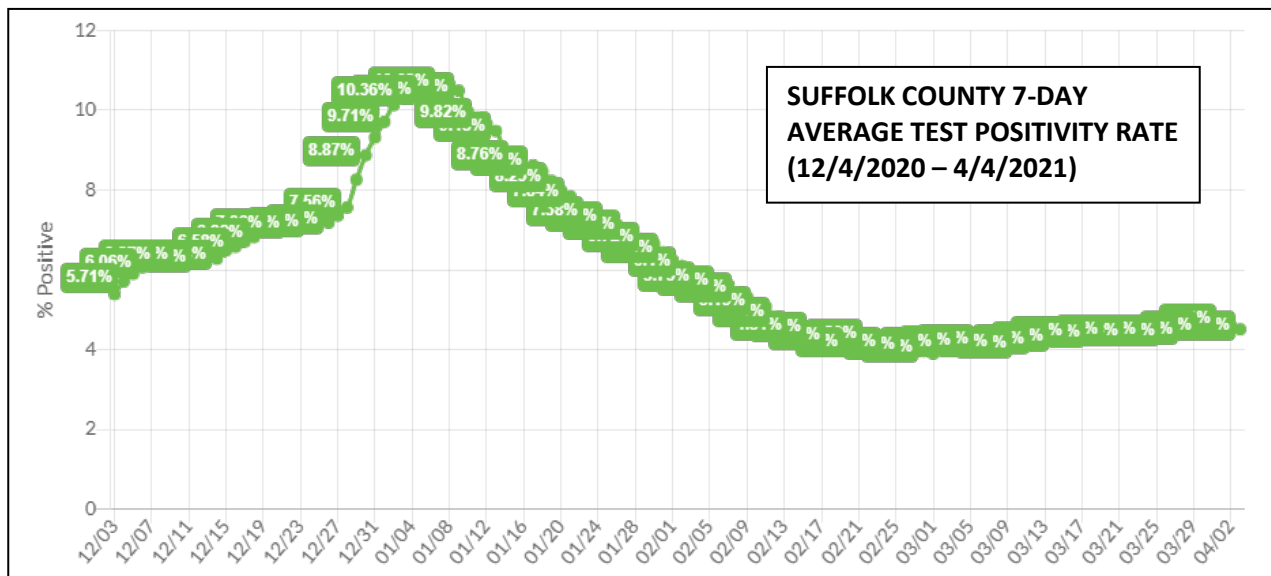


3. Cases are slowly creeping up again in Suffolk County, now at an **extremely high-risk** level (defined as at or above 46 per 100,000) at a 7-day average of **49 per 100,000** population.



**COVID-19 Testing in Suffolk County on April 4:**

- 16,0061 COVID-19 tests were administered.
- 700 new cases were reported.; 7-day average = 718, an **increase of 34** from one week ago.
- 185,345 total cases have been reported since March of 2020.
- 4.4% tested positive; 7-day average = 4.5%, an **increase of 0.1%** from a week before (4-month trend below).



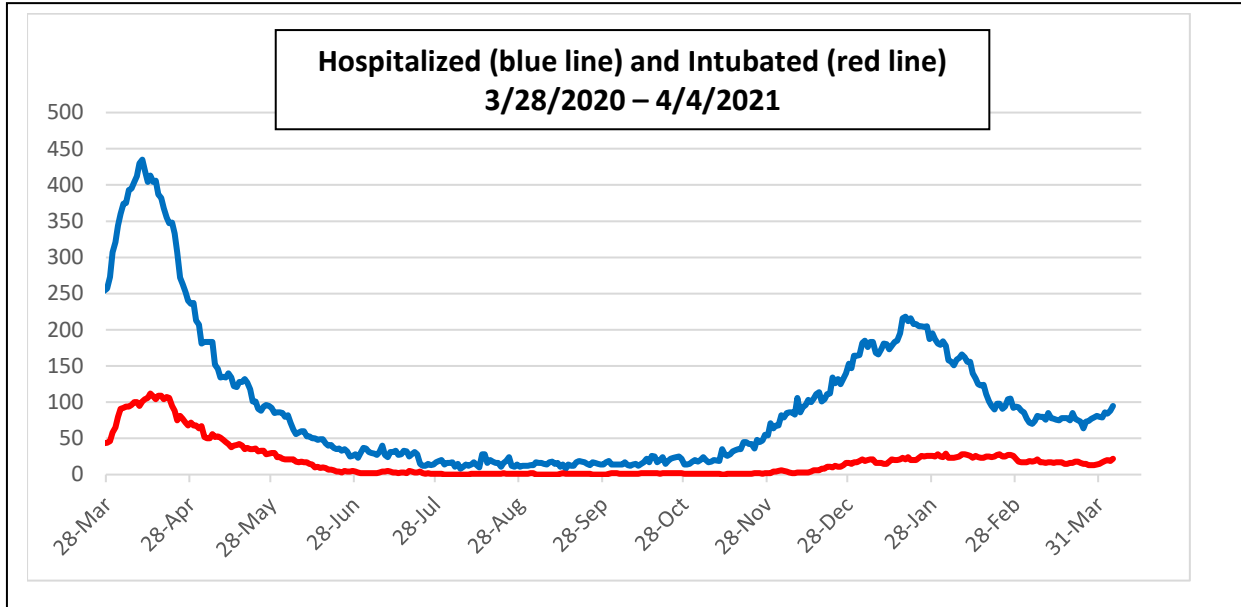
**Fatalities:**

- 3,270 total fatalities, an **increase of 68** from one week before.

**COVID-19 Hospitalizations:**

- 345 individuals were hospitalized, a **decrease of 43** from one week before.
- 78 patients were in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), an **increase of 2** from a week ago.

#### 4. Daily COVID-19 Hospitalization Data in SBUH

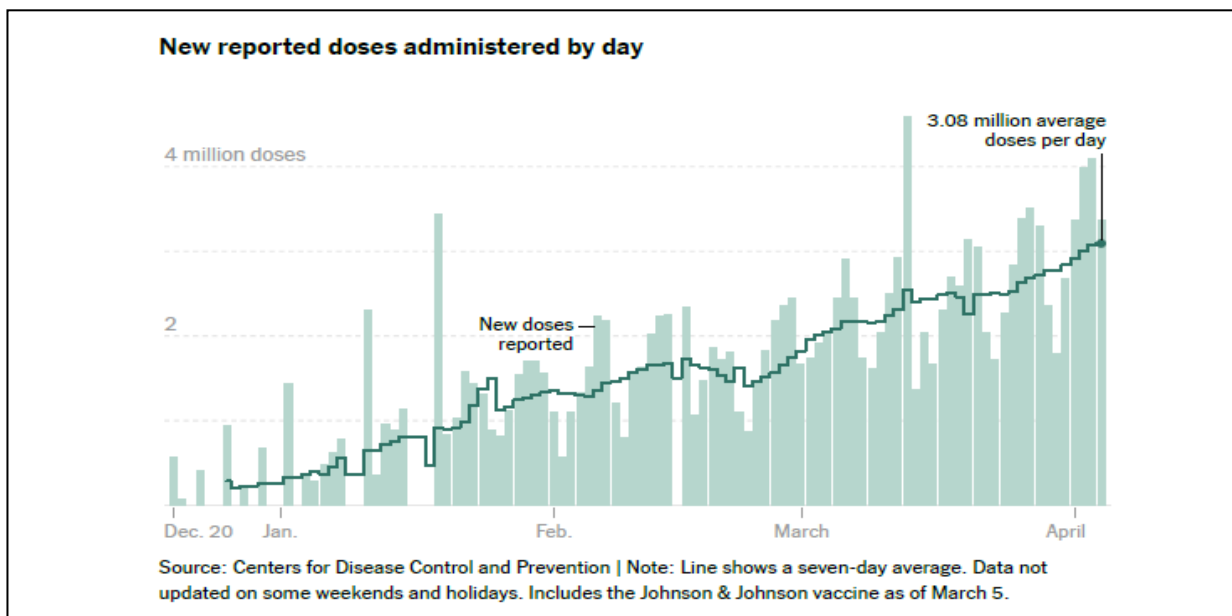


At midnight Sunday, April 4, SBUH census is as follows (see figure above for all-time trend of hospitalization).

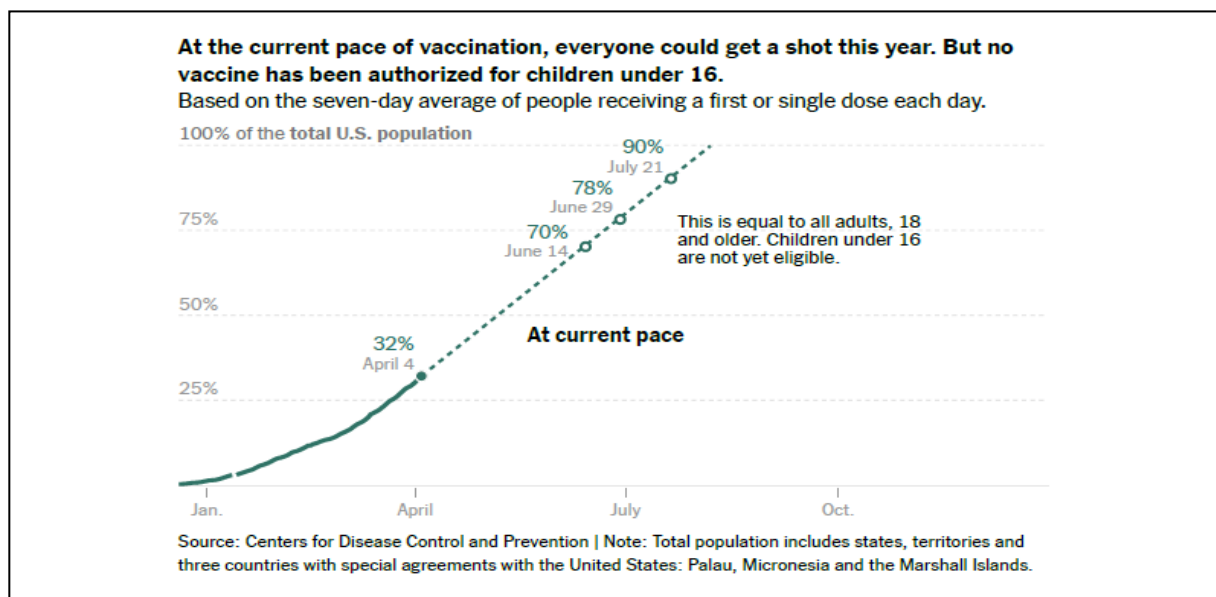
- 97 COVID + inpatients, an **increase of 20** compared to one week before.
  - 23 patients were in ICU level of care; 228 on ventilators; 13 in ICR.
  - COVID admissions on Sunday = 15.
  - COVID live discharges = 5.
  - COVID-related deaths = 0.
- Total hospital census = 590; Med/Surg = 484 (110%).
- Total weekly admissions have been rising since the first week of March.

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

On April 4, the 7-day average of COVID vaccine administered in the U.S. was 3.08 million, for a total of 165+ million doses administered since the beginning of the rollout.



**32% of the U.S. population have received at least one dose (NY state is at 34% and Suffolk County is 33%).** At the current rate of administration, all adults 18 and older will receive at least one shot by July (see graph below).



## 6. SARS-CoV-2 Viral Variants Update (source = CDC)

- Genetic variants of SARS-CoV-2 have been emerging and circulating around the world throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Viral mutations and variants in the United States are routinely monitored through sequence-based surveillance, laboratory studies, and epidemiological investigations.
- A US government interagency group developed a Variant Classification scheme that defines three classes of SARS-CoV-2 variants:
  - Variant of Interest - A variant with specific genetic markers that have been associated with changes to receptor binding, reduced neutralization by antibodies generated against previous infection or vaccination, reduced efficacy of treatments, potential diagnostic impact, or predicted increase in transmissibility or disease severity.
  - Variant of Concern – defined as a variant for which there is evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease (increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures.
  - Variant of High Consequence - A variant of high consequence has clear evidence that prevention measures or medical countermeasures (MCMs) have significantly reduced effectiveness relative to previously circulating variants. **Currently there are no SARS-CoV-2 variants that rise to the level of high consequence.**
- The B.1.1.7 (“UK variant”), B.1.351 (“South African variant”), P.1 (“Brazilian variant”), B.1.427 (California), and B.1.429 (California) variants circulating in the United States are classified as **variants of concern**. Both B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 variants are circulating in New York. In addition, the first case of P.1 variant was just identified in New York City two days ago.
- The B.1.526 and B.1.525 variants are both discovered in New York City and are classified as **variants of interest**.
- COVID cases caused by variants in New York City – Ove 70% of viruses sequenced from Mar 15 to 21 are variants.**  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/covid-19-data-variants-033021.pdf>

## New York City COVID-19 Cases Caused by SARS-CoV-2 Variants Report (3.30.2021)

Data pulled 3/23/21\* from GISAID; variants available in GISAID for NYC residents, cumulative\*\*

Variants of concern that are being monitored by CDC	
B.1.1.7 ("UK variant")	590
B.1.351 ("South African variant")	2
B.1.429 ("Californian variant")	105
B.1.427 ("Californian variant")	44
P.1 ("Brazilian variant")	1
Other variants being monitored by NYC	
B.1.526 ("New York City variant")	1800
B.1.525 ("New York City variant")	10
P.2	11
Number of <a href="#">genome sequences</a> from specimens from NYC residents in GISAID, cumulative*	7078

\*No GISAID update was available for the current week

\*\* [GISAID](#) is a global science repository for open-access to genomic data of SARS-CoV2. Cumulative refers to January 2021 – present. All sequences noted as “available in GISAID” have passed critical quality control checks and are publicly available.

Trends based on a sample of specimens submitted to Pandemic Response Lab, as of 3/28

Specimen collection date, week	Total specimens sequenced by PRL	B.1.1.7 (N, %)	B.1.351 (N, %)	B.1.429 (N, %)	B.1.427 (N, %)	P.1 (N, %)	B.1.526 (N, %)+		B.1.525 (N, %)	P.2 (N, %)
							S:E484K+ (N, %)	S:E484K- (N, %)		
Feb 8 - 14	734	52 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	9 (1.2%)	4 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	111 (15.1%)	103 (14%)	1 (0.1%)	3 (0.4%)
Feb 15 - 21	826	69 (8.4%)	2 (0.2%)	5 (0.6%)	8 (1.0%)	0 (0%)	133 (16.1%)	121 (14.6%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0%)
Feb 22 - 28	990	118 (11.9%)	0 (0%)	12 (1.2%)	4 (0.4%)	0 (0%)	207 (20.9%)	178 (18%)	4 (0.4%)	2 (0.2%)
March 1 - 7	715	125 (17.5%)	0 (0%)	14 (2.0%)	3 (0.4%)	0 (0%)	168 (23.5%)	153 (21.4%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0%)
March 8 - 14	1481	141 (9.5%)	0 (0%)	13 (0.9%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	227 (15.3%)	254 (17.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
March 15 - 21	698	183 (26.2%)	2 (0.3%)	8 (1.1%)	5 (0.7%)	4 (0.6%)	195 (27.9%)	105 (15.0%)	2 (0.3%)	0 (0%)

### 7. New York State continues to expand vaccine eligibility.

New York State expanded the eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines to **individuals age 30 and over**, as of Tuesday, March 30 and for those **age 16 and over**, starting Tuesday, April 6. [See the Governor’s announcement here.](#)

This means all of our eligible students, faculty and staff will soon be able to be vaccinated, which is a hugely important step in our battle against the virus and our plans to open up to more in-person learning this fall.

We strongly encourage you to get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible. We also urge you to [regularly visit the New York State COVID Vaccine website](#) for appointment availability at sites across the State, including the Stony Brook R&D Park and Southampton Campus point of distribution (POD) sites.

### 8. Please Continue to Keep Us Safe

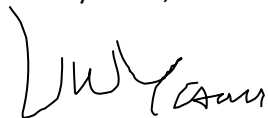
With more people getting vaccinated, certain relaxing CDC restrictions and warmer weather tempting a lot of us to perhaps ‘drop our guard’ a little in the COVID-19 battle, please don’t. We stayed open, and accomplished all we did, by practicing healthy habits and following important protocols. And that 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 not out of the woods. It is important for everyone to remain vigilant until the storm passes. Please keep safe and healthy.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VW Yang'.

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