

Hospital Preparedness for Coronavirus

March 2020

New York's hospitals have very strong systems in place to quickly identify and isolate patients who meet risk factors for *any* emerging infectious disease, including coronavirus (COVID-19). The lessons from previous infectious disease outbreaks—including Ebola, Zika, H1N1, and SARS—have greatly informed and improved the hospital community's current planning.

New York's hospitals have spent weeks ramping up their COVID-19 response plans, including patient surge models that call for rapid testing, aggressive triage and isolation, increased capacity for the severely ill, and alternative spaces to treat those who are less sick. Hospitals constantly train their staff for these situations, and their highest priority when implementing these plans is the safety of their health care workers and the patients they care for.

New York's hospitals are smartly conserving their supplies, including N95 respirators, surgical masks, and other personal protective equipment. They are also prepared if necessary to draw down supplies from ample State, City, and Federal emergency stockpiles.

Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) is in daily contact with State and City public health and emergency management officials to ensure close collaboration and alignment of activities. We work as a seamless team with our State and City colleagues in these situations, and we thank them for their extraordinary work. GNYHA also communicates daily with our member hospitals and health systems with the latest State, City, and Federal information and guidance.

With the help of GNYHA and the nation's most comprehensive regional emergency planning infrastructure, New York's hospitals are ready to respond to COVID-19.

