Update on Coronavirus

Mount Sinai South Nassau
COVID-19 Data Dashboard

65
Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 patients currently in house

880
COVID-19 patients discharged HOME

13
Ventilated COVID-19 Patients
as of May 21, 2020

Tony Greco goes home after 61-days
See story below

Elective Surgeries to Resume at Mount Sinai South Nassau

--Don’t Put Your Health on Hold
Physicians at Mount Sinai South Nassau have begun scheduling patients for elective and other surgeries that had been put off during the COVID pandemic. Richard J. Murphy, President and CEO, said that the hospital is all set to begin elective surgeries. “Our surgeons are anxious to get started,” he said. “They have a waiting list of patients.”

There is a backlog of about 1,200 surgeries at MSSN. The hospital has been performing only about 15 procedures a day to treat patients for urgent conditions and for conditions that significantly worsened during the pandemic. Some surgeries that were considered elective weeks ago have now become more urgent.

Administrators say the hospital has taken many precautions to ensure patient safety. “There is no need to fear coming to our hospital because of coronavirus,” Mr. Murphy said, and added that COVID-dedicated units have been emptied, deep-cleaned and sanitized. Patients who are being treated for the virus are in dedicated COVID-19 areas and a no-visitor policy remains in effect.

Mount Sinai South Nassau has opened a drive-through coronavirus testing site in the Washington Ave. parking lot. All patients undergoing any procedure must be tested for COVID-19 three days prior to their scheduled surgeries.
Rajiv Datta, MD, Chair, Department of Surgery and Medical Director of the Gertrude & Louis Fell Cancer Center, said the hospital is taking all necessary precautions to keep patients safe, including separate areas for non-COVID-19 patients who need treatment. "We are ready to go," he said. "We have all the policies and procedures in place."

Retired NYPD Officer Goes Home to Wantagh After 61-Day Battle with COVID-19, wife credits MSSN staff with ‘saving his life twice’

Tony Greco, 53, of Wantagh, leaves Mount Sinai South Nassau Wednesday after recovering from COVID-19-related complications. His wife, Elizabeth, credited the hospital’s critical care staff for twice saving her husband’s life.

It was the longest battle of Tony Greco’s life. After falling sick in early March with mild flu-like symptoms, the retired New York City Police Officer, 53, went to an urgent care center and tested negative for the flu. Over the next several days, though, the Wantagh father of six developed a hacking cough and trouble breathing. “By the time his COVID-19 test came back positive, I was driving him to Mount Sinai South Nassau’s ER,” recalled his wife, Liz.

Doctors at the hospital’s Emergency Department diagnosed a severe lung condition. During the next 20 days, he would go off and on a ventilator twice. At one point, when his condition worsened, he was transferred to Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan and almost put on a heart-lung machine as a last-ditch effort to save his life, a treatment he wound up not needing. When he returned to Mount Sinai South Nassau in Oceanside, he needed an operation to drain excess fluid and heal his damaged lungs.

On Day No. 61, Mr. Greco finally went home. Although weak from his ordeal, “his prognosis is good,” said his pulmonologist, Frank Coletta, MD, Chief of Critical Care at Mount Sinai South Nassau, adding that Mr. Greco will need to spend the next four months building his strength with physical therapy and home care. As Mr. Greco was leaving the hospital, his wife thanked doctors and nurses and praised Dr. Coletta for saving her husband’s life twice.

“On a scale of one to 10, you guys are a 20,” Liz Greco told a crowd of nurses, doctors, family, neighbors and staff who cheered “Tony, Tony” as he entered his car to return home via police escort. #TonyStrong


Help support our Front Line Heroes

Your support is critical to our mission:
• Continue to protect our nurses, doctors, and front line staff
• Provide a safe, clean, and sterilized environment for our patients
• Return to more normal operations so no patient feels they need to put their health on hold

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Mount Sinai South Nassau's lifesaving COVID-19 Relief Fund right now.
 Donate now...

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**Trusting the Care at Mount Sinai South Nassau**

When Dawn Strain, 46, of Auburndale, Queens, told friends she was scheduled for surgery at Mount Sinai South Nassau for the removal of a cancerous melanoma earlier this month, they warned her that she might catch coronavirus at the hospital.

Ms. Strain, the president of an event planning firm, decided it was more dangerous to wait. She had the surgery on Wednesday, May 13th. And she is relieved the cancer was caught early. Her entire hospital experience was “comforting and wonderful—as wonderful as being in a hospital can be,” she said with a laugh. “The hospital was amazingly clean; it looked like you could eat off the floor.”

“Our operating rooms and preoperative and postoperative areas are COVID-19-free,” said surgical oncologist Eric Seitelman, MD, of the Gertrude & Louis Feil Cancer Center at Mount Sinai South Nassau and Program Director of Surgery. “It is entirely safe to be operated on... plus, 72 hours before we perform any procedure, we test the patient for coronavirus.”

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**Marking National Critical Care Month**

Mount Sinai South Nassau recognizes National Critical Care Month and the work of intensivists, pulmonologists, and other physicians who serve alongside critical care nurses, respiratory therapists, and other health care professionals on the critical care team. During the pandemic, critical care staff were key members on the front lines, managing severely ill COVID-19 patients and offering their expertise to team-based care. Critical care staff, headed by Frank Coletta, MD, and Louis Saffran, MD, sport blue scrubs, and show off blue pastries, the color theme of the recognition month.

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**An Airborne Tribute**

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The New York Air National Guard’s 106th Rescue Wing, based at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach, saluted front-line staff at Mount Sinai South Nassau and more than two dozen Long Island hospitals with a flyover on May 15. The “Salute Long Island” flyover included a HC-130J search and rescue plane and a pair of HH-60 rescue helicopters, according to the New York Air National Guard website.

Mount Sinai South Nassau in the News

*Newsday* interviewed Jennifer Woodard, 45, of Lynbrook, who received convalescent plasma therapy while she was hospitalized at Mount Sinai South Nassau for COVID-19. She says after the treatment, she felt a “burst of energy” and that it may have helped speed her recovery. [Read the story...](#)

Front-line Staff Member’s TikTok Video Captures Celebrity’s Attention

Critical Care Patient Care Technician Angela Green’s TikTok video about her work on the unit at Mount Sinai South Nassau during the COVID-19 crisis caught the attention of The Kelly Clarkson Show. Ms. Clarkson, a singer and TV host, invited Ms. Green, who calls herself “60 and sassy,” to be a guest on her NBC show via Zoom and surprised her—and the hospital—with a generous donation. [View the video](https://www.kellyclarksonshow.com/video/kelly-surprises-60yearold-viral-tiktok-healthcare-worker-with-15000/4169585): [https://www.kellyclarksonshow.com/video/kelly-surprises-60yearold-viral-tiktok-healthcare-worker-with-15000/4169585](https://www.kellyclarksonshow.com/video/kelly-surprises-60yearold-viral-tiktok-healthcare-worker-with-15000/4169585)

Acts of kindness...

Signature Bank Sponsors ‘Haircuts for Heroes’
Split ends? Overgrown locks? ‘Haircuts for Heroes’ to the rescue. Signature Bank generously sponsored free haircuts for Mount Sinai South Nassau’s front line workers this week. Licensed, professional stylists from ‘Shortcut’ were on hand for three days at one of the hospital’s triage tents that was transformed into a makeshift salon. Stylists wore masks and kept appropriate social distance in a sign of what may be to come for the haircutting industry when it reopens. The event sold out and there is now a waiting list. If you know of a firm or individual who would like to sponsor additional ‘Haircuts for Heroes,’ please contact Tim Matejka at 516-377-5360.

**Tijori Foundation Grant to Help Defer Hospital’s COVID-19 Expenses**

Dr. Aaron E. Glatt, chair of medicine and chief of infectious diseases, was instrumental in helping Mount Sinai South Nassau secure a $100,000 grant from the Tijori Foundation, a Connecticut-based nonprofit. The grant funds were donated Zecher Nishmas (in memory of) the hospital’s patients who have succumbed to COVID-19 related complications and are earmarked to purchase equipment to diagnose and treat infectious diseases.

**Corporate**
- Art of Living Foundation
- 7-11 Corporation
- Dunkin Brands
- Stop & Shop
- The Mudra Foundation
- Weeks Lerman

**Baldwin**
- Baldwin Harbor Deli
- Baldwin Public Library
- Delicious Moments Caterers
- Sonny’s Canal House

**Bellmore**
- Bellmore Dermatology

**Brooklyn**
- Utica Plumbing Supply

**Massapequa Park**
- Bacaro Italian Tavern

**Merrick**
- Cure of Ars

**Oceanside**
- 24 Hour Bagel
- Dr. Mala Balakumr
- Bonbino’s Pizzeria
- Bagel Boss
- Chadwick’s American Chop House & Bar
- CVS
- Dr. Rajiv Datta and Family
- FRJ Donuts, Inc.
- Farmer Joel's
- JPaul’s
- Lia’s Pizzeria
- Mario’s Bakery
- Moccia Family

**A big thank you to our amazing community and all the local businesses for their support during this difficult time. Your donations of food for our hardworking nurses and staff have warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits. We are so grateful. Please continue to support these local businesses who donated to Mount Sinai South Nassau.**
For the most up to date information about COVID-19, please visit the CDC website at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Mount Sinai South Nassau COVID-19 information is located at: [southernassau.org/covid19](http://southernassau.org/covid19)

Thank you for supporting Mount Sinai South Nassau. Be assured that we are monitoring the COVID-19 situation very closely and are prepared to meet the needs of the communities we serve.