



A Special COVID-19 Message To You From Your Long Island Community Hospital CEO

To my community,

As President and CEO of Long Island Community Hospital, I am faced with the responsibility of leading this great organization through the outbreak of COVID-19, a new coronavirus which can cause mild to moderate to severe respiratory illness. This is an unprecedented healthcare challenge, and I know you are also faced with ensuring you and your family is as prepared and protected as they can be. My logical side wants to be sure to share with you helpful information. My emotional side wants to share my empathy and concern. This is a time for us to join together as a strong community.

When we changed our name we didn't pick the word "community" by chance. That word, community represents what we are all about. Now, more than ever before, our community is our motivation. While we have more direct information and we live our preparations for COVID-19 every minute, we feel the uncertainty of our community members growing. We want you to feel reassured that our hospital's COVID-19 Task Force is constantly making critical decisions to ensure we can care for those who need our hospital today and in the weeks to come. We have true heroes here at work, who will play a significant role in the course of how this virus affects our community.

As of now, we have instated interim policies on visiting the hospital, safeguarding supplies, communicating the latest information and screening all who come to our hospital, including our employees every day. We have set up an additional triage area for those with respiratory symptoms and have expert clinical staff reviewing any suspected case. For the future, we have a full plan ready for an influx of patients who will need us. So please rest easier knowing that if you or your family is affected by this virus to the degree that you need hospital treatment, we will be here.

We also want to share with you our expert clinician-guided recommendations while you are at home:

- Practice social distancing. Stay at home and avoid public places where germs are shared. Events have been canceled and schools have been closed for that exact reason.
- Make your home a safe-haven. Clean high-touch surfaces often and wash your hands regularly. Make sure you are spending at least 20 seconds washing with warm water and soap, washing your palms, backs, in-between fingers and fingertips every time. Make sure everyone in your home is coughing and sneezing into their elbow.
- If you aren't feeling well, take your vitamins, eat healthy, drink plenty of fluids and get a good amount of rest. If you feel like your symptoms are getting worse, please call your primary care physician. If you don't have one, don't worry, we do. You can call our MyHealth LI number at 631.694.3258 to choose the right primary care physician. As of now, the COVID-19 symptoms to look out for are: cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If you or your loved one has these symptoms, but they are mild, please call your primary care physician and they will let you know the next steps to take. Currently, there are a limited number of tests and they will let you know if you meet the criteria for testing. If your symptoms are more severe, please call us at 631.654.7100 so we can prepare for your visit here at the hospital.

Keep your head up, stay calm and know that we are committed to being here for you every step of the way. We have a great team here working and we will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Margulis

President & Chief Executive Officer

Your Community. Your Hospital.
www.LICommunityHospital.org

**Long Island
Community Hospital**