

Health Equity COVID19 Update

We know many of you are on the front lines for our patients during this crisis and experiencing the effects of COVID19 in very unique and personal ways. Please remember you are not alone in this and we are so proud to be doing battle alongside each of you.

This pandemic has laid bare the injustice in our healthcare system, and many outside of our advocacy circles are finally realizing that our health is inseparably tied to the least and most vulnerable among us. As horrific as it is to watch this broken system crumble before us, this presents immense opportunities for us to stand in the gap for those who need us most - the uninsured, incarcerated, undomiciled and those who don't have a voice - and to advocate for policy that guarantees a more equitable future for all of us.

Never has there been a time more ripe for change. Thank you for being part of the health equity task force - this is our time. In solidarity 🙌

Our patients need medically-appropriate shelter



"What happens when a historic pandemic collides with an unprecedented housing crisis? The inextricable link between housing and health is now more apparent than ever as doctors both care for critically ill patients with the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and

simultaneously scramble to make plans for the most vulnerable in our society who simply have no place to isolate."

[Read more >](#)

[Show support for rent freeze bill >](#)

[Patient resources >](#)

Spread of coronavirus accelerates in jails & prisons

| | Cases* | Population | Infection Rate | Infections/ 1,000 people |
|---|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| NYC Jails (Rikers)** | 132 | 4,740 | 2.785% | 27.85 |
| New York City | 29,158 | 8,175,133 | 0.357% | 3.57 |
| New York State | 52,318 | 19,440,469 | 0.269% | 2.69 |
| United States | 118,592 | 331,002,651 | 0.036% | 0.36 |
| Hubei Province (Wuhan) | 67,801 | 59,020,000 | 0.115% | 1.15 |
| China | 81,394 | 1,439,323,776 | 0.006% | 0.06 |
| Lombardy, Italy | 39,415 | 10,040,000 | 0.393% | 3.93 |
| Italy | 92,472 | 60,461,826 | 0.153% | 1.53 |
| *last updated | 3/28/2020 at 4 PM | | | |
| ** This is not the cumulative number of cases of people who have contracted COVID-19 while detained in NYC jails. NYC DOC is releasing the daily number of people currently in NYC Jails who have tested positive for COVID-19, which does not include those who contracted COVID-19 in DOC custody who have been released. It may also not reflect the number of those in DOC custody who are hospitalized. The Legal Aid Society is seeking clarity from the Department of Correction to get accurate and cumulative data. | | | | |

"As of Saturday, at least 132 inmates and 104 staff at jails across New York City had tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. The virus appears to be spreading quickly through a jail system famous for its overcrowded cell blocks."

[Read more >](#)

[Sign ACLU petition to release the vulnerable >](#)

[Send letters to government leaders >](#)

High risk of spread in immigration detention centers

"Immigrants in government custody are forced to live, sleep, and eat together. Some spend nearly all day in large rooms filled with closely packed bunk beds, or just long concrete benches. Others live in dank two-person cells, sometimes with minimal ventilation. Dozens of people share toilets and showers, sometimes with no divider and without disinfection between use. Social distancing is not an option."

[Read more >](#)

[Participate in #FreeThemAll this week >](#)

The case for rational hope

"Rational hope accepts that the situation is genuinely dark, but then it still looks around for signposts leading up and out. It recognizes that things are likely to get worse, but keeps itself alert to the contexts in which they seem to be getting better — or at the very least, getting worse more slowly. It doesn't expect miracles, but it rejects a grim helplessness, a spirit of inevitable doom."

[Read more >](#)

Ask family & friends for support

Forward this email to loved ones looking to support us and others during this time. Encourage them to take action as above. Here is a list of organizations in need of donations for COVID-19 response:

[Care for the Homeless >](#)

[Meals on Wheels >](#)

[Food Bank for NYC >](#)

[Restaurant Workers Community Relief Fund >](#)

[Direct Relief >](#)



LMH Health Equity Taskforce

We are an interdisciplinary group of professionals from NYP Lower Manhattan Hospital formed in response to our experience of health disparities in our patient population. We aim to recognize, understand and reduce these disparities through education, local partnerships and advocacy.

Please send submissions for our next newsletter to [Karina Galvin](#)

Email [Amanda Ramsdell](#) to join our email list