

VMG COVID-19 UPDATE

Friday, May 8, 2020

Issue # 39

It's Friday. I hope you will enjoy your weekend.

I promise there is an uplifting video link at the end of this Update but please stick with me first. I want a haircut. I need a haircut. It's a free country, right? I should be able to get a haircut when I want to and the person who cuts my hair is going broke because she can't open her store. If someone else doesn't want a haircut, that's their business. Besides, this virus thing is not as dangerous as "the government" says. Right? ABSOLUTELY AND COMPLETELY WRONG!

This virus is absolutely dangerous. It's already killed more than 76,000 people in this country. Yet a bunch of "conspiracy theorists" produced a slick video with absolutely incorrect, vicious, yet persuasive (to some) arguments about the need to not only "reopen" the country but to distrust those who say otherwise.

To be sure, we are dealing with two major crises at the same time: the pandemic and the economy. Both are critical now. But we need to stay focused on the facts and the science. If significant parts of the country start (or continue) believing this pandemic is not real, people will continue to die. And the economy will not improve.

And now, back to me and my haircutting needs. I have a responsibility to you and every other citizen to deal with managing my needs in a way that does not threaten your health and life. We used to understand public health as a greater goal. And, in times of crisis we usually pull together. We need to again. And ironically, this is V-E day (talk about pulling together).

So I have a responsibility to speak out to anyone who is ignoring the truth of this pandemic. And so do we all. Please, if you know someone who is claiming this is not real or does not feel the need to safeguard us all as best we can, use the talking points I sent you yesterday (they are on the intranet page). We can all help out for our greater good. You don't have to be confrontational. Just be calm and fact-based. Or send them the information if you don't think you can discuss it.

National, State, and Regional

I've already talked about the national scene. The state may be seeing some continued improvement in rates of known infections and in hospital admissions. That's good for now. We'll wait to see if it really is a confirmed trend.

Regionally we remain stable with our hospitals open and not overwhelmed. Testing is slowly becoming more available. We'll have more information on that soon.

At VMG

The results of the trial of pediatric visits are generally positive. It's a good start to resuming this important service. And testing in the open air is going well. On Monday we'll share the trends for increasing business activity by department.

A reminder to observe social (physical distancing) in our common areas such as break and lunch rooms. You should soon see some reminder signs about the number of people who can be in these areas at one time. Please respect these safety steps.

OK. As I said, this is Friday. Here's something to bring you up as you head into the weekend (thanks to Diane Fisher-Katz for finding this).

https://vimeo.com/413671073/290058eeeb?fbclid=IwAR2Fz7tTMrkF_9MwbdFLvNgNCGc_o9J6J8ZuxB-NqCdd_YA-2h1zy5Ra-cUh

And here's my Mister Rogers moment. You are all great and valuable and we really appreciate all your efforts on behalf of our patients and our communities. And again, Happy Nurses Week and now Happy Mother's Day.

Please wash your hands (a lot), don't touch your face, maintain social/physical distancing (it works), wear a mask, and continue to be in touch with and take care of each other.

Be well,

Joel

Be patient; be mindful

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