

The Management of COVID-19 in a Behavioral Health Setting at The Mount Sinai Hospital

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**Mount
Sinai**

Psychiatric In-patient Capacity

- The Mount Sinai Hospital is comprised of two inpatient psychiatric units.
 - Madison 5: Adult Psychiatry - 25 bed capacity
 - 7S: Geriatric Psychiatry - 21 bed capacity
- ***Total bed capacity of 46 patients.***



Our COVID Response: March 2020

- All patients admitted into psychiatry were screened for URI symptoms.
 - If patients were screened positive for URI symptoms, conversations occurred with the NYCDOH and the Hospital Epidemiologists on whether the patients should be tested for SARS-CoV-2.
 - At MSH, patients were made “PUI-persons under investigation” and placed on special droplet (N95 and eye protection) and contact precautions, until PCR testing resulted.
 - March 17, 2020 - In house SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing went live.
- All patients entering our Psychiatric ED were tested on admission.
- Patients were asked to mask if tolerated.
- Madison 5 became our designated COVID unit, if positive patients were admitted.
 - All positive patients were placed on special droplet (N95 and eye protection) and contact precautions.



Special Droplet and Contact Precautions



Contact Precautions

Visitors must report to the nurses' station before entering this room.
Las visitas deben anunciarse en el mostrador de enfermería antes de entrar a esta habitación.



Clean hands when entering and exiting the room
Límpiese las manos al entrar y salir del cuarto





Put on a gown first and then gloves
Póngase la bata primero y luego los guantes




Disinfect shared patient equipment
Desinfecte equipo que se comparta entre pacientes






Special Droplet Precautions


Visitor Restriction.
ALL visitors must check in at nursing desk before entering.
Las visitas deben anunciarse en el mostrador de enfermería antes de entrar a esta habitación.



Clean hands when entering and exiting the room
Límpiese las manos al entrar y salir del cuarto




Put on a fitted N-95 mask prior to entering
Colóquese una máscara N-95 a medida antes de entrar



Put on eye protection prior to entering
Colóquese un protector ocular antes de entrar



Keep the door closed
Mantenga la puerta cerrada



Disinfect shared patient equipment
Desinfecte equipo que se comparta entre pacientes



Our COVID Response: March 2020

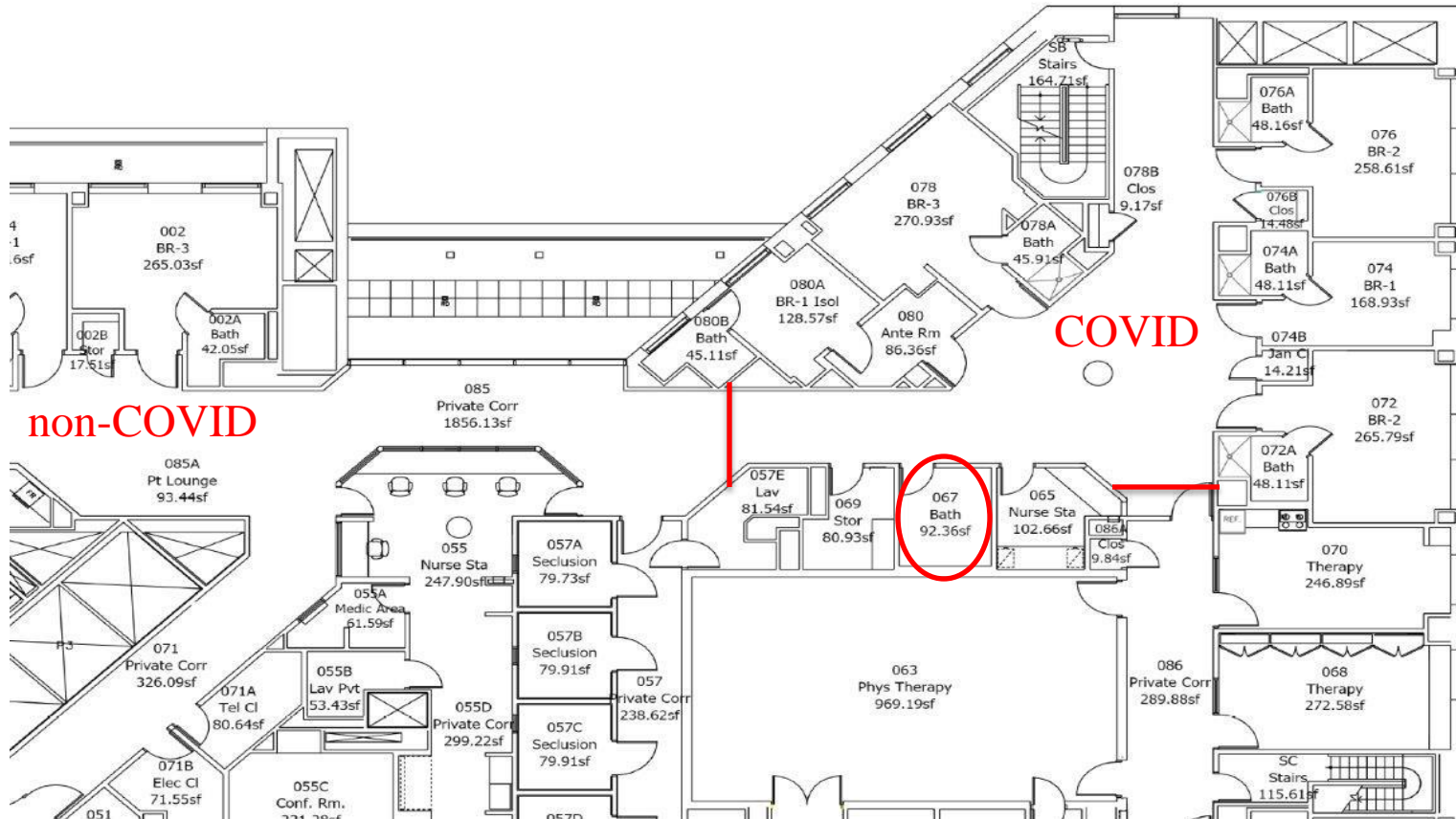
- 7S would remain our non-COVID unit due to our Geriatric population.
- Visitation was on hold as per the Governor's order.
- Due to staffing shortages and a decrease in inpatient psychiatric admissions 7S was closed during the height of the Pandemic for approximately 3 weeks.
 - Madison 5 was then converted to both a COVID and non-COVID unit housing Adult and Geriatric patients.

Converting Madison 5 into COVID and non-COVID

- A barrier was installed splitting the unit into two separate areas.
 - The COVID side had the capacity to house 8 patients confirmed to have COVID-19 by PCR testing.
 - The non-COVID side had the capacity to house 17 patients.
- Extended use PPE (gowns, gloves, N95 and eye protection) was implemented.
 - Staff would don PPE prior to entry into the space.
- A PPE doffing station was created in an old shower room.
 - Engineering installed a portable sink and hand hygiene dispensers (both hand sanitizer and soap and water).
 - EVS rounded frequently to empty the trash bins.
- Group therapy was limited to 3-4 patients at a time, 6 feet apart, in the milieu.
 - Patients who were positive for COVID-19 received therapy in their rooms.



Madison 5: COVID and non-COVID



The “New” Normal

- Reopening of 7S in April 2020
- Removal of the barrier on Madison 5
- COVID-19 positive patients are cared for on Madison 5, and are assigned to a private room on transmission based precautions.
- Once the Governor approved visitation to occur, patients were assigned specific days of the week for their visitor to come. This limited the amount of people on the unit to allow for social distancing.
 - All patients including those who are positive for COVID-19 are allowed visitors.
 - PPE kits are provided.

Contact Tracing

- When Infection Prevention (IP) is notified of a positive COVID-19 case in Psychiatry, contact tracing is initiated.
 - IP huddles with all staff to discuss our “plan of action.”
 - Due to the complexity of the unit and the compliance in patient masking, all patients are tested for SARS-CoV-2 within 3-5 days post exposure and then again on days 10-14.
 - All high risk exposures (HRE) are made PUI.
 - Staff and patients are daily screened for any change in symptoms.
 - At any point if symptoms develop, staff are asked to leave the unit and report to Employee Health Services.
 - Patients are placed on transmission based precautions and tested for SARS-CoV-2.
 - Visitor logs are reviewed.

Our Success from March of 2020-Present

- To date there has been 7 COVID-19 exposures on our inpatient Psychiatry units.
 - 3 Patient exposures and 4 staff member exposures.
 - 3 patients were tested after developing respiratory symptoms.
 - 2 staff members developed symptoms after gathering for a “celebratory baby shower.”
 - 1 staff member was tested due to a contact tracing and was asymptomatic.
 - 1 staff member tested for personal travel.
- Of note, there has been no staff to patient or patient to patient transmission identified.
- Currently, there is an active COVID-19 vaccination program for the patients in both units.