**Joint Messaging From SIUH/RUMC on Coronavirus**

* Staten Island University Hospital and Richmond University Medical Center have been working together with City, State, and Federal officials to coordinate and prepare for Coronavirus on Staten Island. Both Emergency Departments, and the hospitals they serve, are well prepared and have procedures in place to handle potential cases. The Emergency Departments are in constant communication with each other and our elected representatives.
* We ask you to remain calm. Experts from both teams have been preparing for potential cases since the beginning of the outbreak. Together, our goal is to keep the Staten Island community safe. As New York City is an international hub, we are not surprised to see our first cases.
* Symptomatic patients who have not traveled to China, South Korea, Italy or other affected areas and have no other risk factors probably have the flu, or other seasonal viruses, not the novel coronavirus.
* We strongly encourage our patients, who are not experiencing severe symptoms, NOT to go to a hospital emergency department, which are extremely busy this time of year. If people are sick and their symptoms worsen, they should call their primary care physician or other health care provider before coming to their primary care physician’s office or the hospital.
* Both hospitals are following the guidance from the Center for Disease Control and NYC Department of Health, and have procedures in place to identify potential patients as soon as they enter our doors, isolate them appropriately and ensure that our staff utilizes the recommended personal protective equipment.
* If you have questions or concerns related to coronavirus, call 311 and you will be directed to either the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene call center or appropriate resources.