PROTECTING THE PUBLIC FROM A DIFFERENT KIND OF ENEMY

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How Things Have Changed: When the crisis started, we limited the entry points to the hospital as a precaution to help manage the needed screening and direct patients to the appropriate level of care. We also needed to limit visitors, and at some point, had to prohibit visitors altogether. We started doing temperature checks for staff, so we needed to funnel entry through one or two locations.

Impact of COVID-19: I've seen 23 of my 78 officers get COVID-19. That gives me a lot of anxiety. I believe that you have to lead by example, so I can't hide in an office. I have to show myself and be there with them so that they see that I'm taking the same amount of risks that they're taking. Thank God that 15 officers have already returned to work.

NYC Health + Hospitals staff members are doing the best that they can and have really come together to combat this pandemic. We're all in this together. I can't say enough about my officers. I'm proud of them for their unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of our patients, staff and community.

We do have our challenges during this time, but at the end of the day, our frontline workforce is committed to saving lives. We are so proud to be part of the staff here at Kings County. I see them doing this on a daily basis.

Managing Stress: I was a cop for 20 years in the NYPD. I saw a lot of things, including 9/11. But, when the attacks happened, we tried to save people, then it became a recovery effort.

With COVID-19, it seems endless. I end my day, and I know that tomorrow I'm coming back and it's still going to be here. It's been that way for several weeks now. That's what gets to me. That's what stresses me out.

My family is a great support group. I couldn't ask for anything better. My daughter, Lauren, 29, will sit with me and watch a movie to decompress. She's supposed to get married in August. I don't know if she will. Fingers crossed.

HEALTH CARE HEROES