

## COVID-19 CARE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S MOST VULNERABLE PATIENTS

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**My Role:** Since 2007, I have led this unit on Rikers Island. My colleagues and I treat patients with infectious diseases, primarily tuberculosis and chicken pox, and work in conjunction with the Department of Health. I've been here through a TB outbreak, the H1N1 swine flu outbreak, and now through the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Impact of COVID-19:** The unit has 98 negative pressure rooms, and, for the first time in a number of years, these beds are completely full as they are being used to isolate patients who have COVID-19. This has put immense pressure on the entire team.

I am lucky to work alongside such supportive and skilled correction health experts to help us handle this crisis together.

Mental health, nursing, social work, and the medical teams, along with other departments, are working together more than ever for our patients. I know that it has been a challenge because people are scared of contracting COVID-19 and spreading it to their families. But my colleagues have gone above and beyond for our patients. I make myself available to my team, always, and they know they can call on me for support even if I'm home or away from Rikers Island.

**Why I'm on the Frontlines:** The patients we see on Rikers Island are often the ones who require a higher degree of services and care. They have the most limited access to health care in the community, and they face stigma in many traditional health care settings.

I began my career at Rikers Island in 1998. The needs of my patients have kept me in correctional health for over two decades. I have worked on various facilities on Rikers Island, but I particularly feel proud to work at the CDU because of our public health mission.



I am not a hero, I am a civil servant. We make sure our patients are properly cared for and ensure everyone else on the island is protected along with New Yorkers in general - we try to protect everyone we can from the effects of infectious diseases.