September 26, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

The reports out of Puerto Rico showing the complete devastation from Hurricanes Irma and Maria are heartbreaking. People have lost everything and are now struggling to survive—the island is without power and has limited access to fresh water, gas, medical services and communications.

So many members of the Montefiore family have loved ones in Puerto Rico and have been trying desperately to get in touch with them and help them. Our community has close ties to the people of Puerto Rico, and we are all feeling great sadness for their suffering and uncertain future.

Across the nation, leaders are mobilizing to fill gaps in the areas with urgent needs. Governor Andrew Cuomo launched the “Empire State Relief & Recovery Effort for Puerto Rico.” In response to the critical condition of medical services, this effort brings together the Greater New York Hospital Association, Hospital Association of New York State, 1199SEIU and the New York State Nurses Association to provide healthcare workers, medical supplies and technical assistance to hospitals across Puerto Rico. Montefiore is working closely with these organizations to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated effort. As plans evolve, we will keep the Montefiore community apprised of opportunities for people across the organization to support and participate in these initiatives.

We stand together with our Montefiore colleagues and patients who have family and friends in Puerto Rico dealing with incredible hardships. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all the people of Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Safyer, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

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