

FEMA Wave 2 Script 3

Anchor:

Death of renowned Internist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York raises concern about medical staff safety during pandemic.

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Hello. I'm Greg Gist live from VNN headquarters in New York City. We have just learned that Dr. Charles Bartell, pioneering Internal Medicine specialist at Mount Sinai has died from the Malta Flu. His death adds another casualty to the staggering death toll across the medical profession. To discuss this further, we are joined by Dr. Manny Oliver, who is an expert on infectious diseases; and has been a major VNN resource during the pandemic.

Doctor Oliver:

Truly, a sad day for the medical community across the nation.

Anchor:

Dr. Oliver, why do you think so many in the medical community are becoming casualties of this pandemic?

Doctor Oliver:

Well, as with any outbreak or pandemic, medical professionals are on the front lines of the battle. As we saw with the Ebola outbreak in West Africa last fall, doctors and nurses were disproportionately being infected. Throughout this pandemic, doctors and nurses have fared better, but it is the first line staff, such as orderlies and medical assistants that are suffering from high infection rates.

Anchor:

What does this mean for the population as a whole if the medical community can't protect itself?

Doctor Oliver:

I think it is a good lesson for all of us as we battle this pandemic. We must continue to remember the basics of preventing the spread of disease.

Anchor:

And those are?

Doctor Oliver:

Practice careful hygiene, try to avoid close contact with sick people without proper protective gear. If you're sick limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them. Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you

cough or sneeze. Throw tissue in the trash after use. Most importantly, wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Anchor:

Do you think we are getting a handle on the pandemic?

Doctor Oliver:

I think people are doing a better job with social distancing and other preventive measures so, yes, we will get ahead of this in the near term.

Anchor:

Thank you doctor...

I'm Greg Gist. Stay tuned to VNN New York for breaking news throughout the day. We thank you for watching.