

**From:** [Schwartz, David](#)  
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Dear Friends and Colleagues.

Regrettably, we've entered into yet another surge of SARS-CoV-2 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. While our clinicians are doing a great job managing the surge of Covid cases, the high census of non-Covid cases has presented capacity challenges for our providers. Although we don't know whether this surge will end quickly or will continue to increase, Mark Earnest, Marisha Burden, Marc Moss, and Steve Johnson have contingency plans in place to address future capacity challenges. Please continue to work with them when called upon to help with these increased workloads.

While prevention (social distancing, masks, and vaccination) is absolutely critical to control the spread of this virus, it's clear that the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 remains a critical component of the equation. Attached is an excellent perspective from this week's Science magazine that discusses the evolution of SARS-CoV-2. While the delta variant is more infectious, possibly more virulent, and is the source of this most recent surge in cases, further evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants may develop mechanisms to evade infection and vaccine acquired immunity. In fact, this article makes the point that acquired human immunity to SARS-CoV-2 may in the future select for variants that evade immunity. The uncertainties that are driving the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 infectiousness, virulence, and immune evasion makes it abundantly clear that SARS-CoV-2 is a wily opponent making it difficult to predict the future.

However, given our track record, I'm convinced that we'll do just fine. We need to continue to work together, support and educate each other, and focus our efforts on the foremost challenge of our careers. Please let me know your thoughts and concerns. My best wishes to you and your families.  
David

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