

ESF IMPACT

newsletter



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ESF takes sector into New York COVID epicentre

The Emergency Services Foundations (ESF) took almost 100 emergency management and health leaders into a hospital in New York City via Zoom for a unique insight into managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group met with Kelly McKinney, Senior Director Emergency Management and Enterprise Resilience at NYU Langone Health to share insights from his experience of managing the pandemic at its peak.

Langone Health has four large hospitals in Manhattan, Brooklyn and on Long Island. Kelly told us that 700 additional beds were built at Tisch hospital on First Avenue over two weeks utilising spaces that were previously out of bounds. He spoke of the constant need to pivot to address changing circumstances and manage logistics and dealing with people who cannot hear amid chaos.

By hosting this thought leadership event ESF brought people together to connect, harness and grow the collective wisdom in relation to the pandemic. Much positive feedback about the opportunity to participate in the online event was received. You can [watch a recording of the event here](#) and find links to articles about the impact on staff wellbeing.

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better together

PARTICIPANTS SAID...

"Thank you very much for the opportunity to participate in the Zoom webinar this morning. It was indeed a privilege to see and hear from Kelly and get a sense of the front line in New York. I think there are many lessons and reflections one might draw from the presentation. One that struck me in particular was the difference between what he described as the brick wall of hope – false hope and denial – and the sense of optimism and confidence he left us with at the end, that capable people will be able to work creatively together to prepare and then deal with the crisis as it evolves."

*Dr Joanna M Flynn AM
Ambulance Victoria*



Kelly McKinney at the end of another long day speaking in the webinar

"Kelly's very open sharing of New York's COVID-19 journey was incredibly insightful, both in terms of how so far we've escaped a real catastrophe in Australia, and to help broaden our thinking about those things we may still need to give consideration to in case of a second wave."

*Tim Wiebusch ESM
Chief Officer Operations VicSES*

"It did seem quite surreal hearing about what they've been through when we are having a completely different experience. Thanks for the opportunity"

Simon Judkins, Director of Emergency Medicine, Austin Health