

Brothers and Friends-

I am writing to you today to share some hopeful thoughts about where we are heading, **especially with COVID now declining in most of the country at this time.**

No one was looking for or wanted a pandemic. It's been painful for me to be without the NWTa and some of our in-person work for so long. I imagine that is also very painful for you. I have lost twelve family members to COVID over the last two years. I grieve my losses and yours.

That said, **there appears to be good news coming.** Based on the trends, and assuming more serious variants do not arise, we anticipate that we may be together face-to-face mid-spring.

Training and Event Safety has published [new guidelines, FAQ, and information on MKPConnect](#) that greatly reduce some of the steps that were previously requested to host events. The charts are updated weekly.

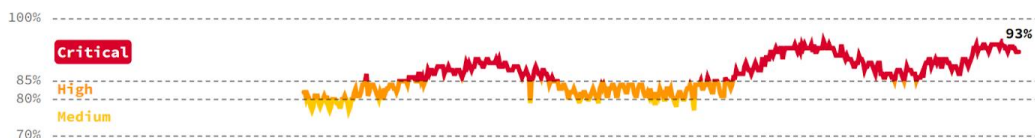
Since I've become Chair, I've been offered countless ideas about the best way to move forward. **I appreciate all of your ideas.** [Please submit your additional thoughts here.](#)

There was a frustrating cancellation this past week. Believe me when I say this is as frustrating to me as it may be to you. Putting aside that cases, while falling, are still well above our infection rate standard in this training Area for a "go," the Intensive Care Unit utilization in that state at the cutoff date for that weekend was 93%.

If we only followed CDC and state guidance, we could find ourselves in difficult situations. To safely do our weekends we need hospitals, ERs, and ICUs able to receive the general public without extensive wait times in the wider area surrounding our trainings.

Hospitalizations

ICU USED	ICU PATIENTS	HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS
• 93%	2,502.7	11,546.9



We have needed those hospitals, ERs and ICUs when men have had non-COVID hospital/ICU related needs like heart events, diabetic events, and injuries requiring hospital attention. Unlike sports teams and similar organizations, we don't have on-site emergency services and are reliant on public resources.

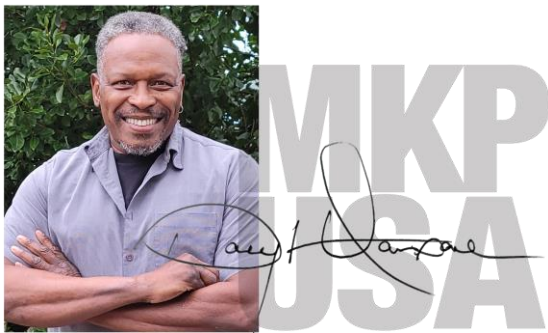
Late winter / early spring trainings are more likely to be canceled than later Spring into Summer. Some parts of the country look better than others. **Our I-Groups, PITs, and other smaller gatherings are likely to come together sooner.**

Coming back to the beginning, I welcome your input and I am aware of your pain and mine. One day sooner than we may think, you're going to plan to staff an NWTA and it's going to happen.

It takes a lot of emotional maturity to disagree and commit or agree and commit in the face of uncertainty. I'm an optimist and I'm going to plan for the best. I invite you to do the same.

Thanks for your patience and your passion.

Darryl Hansome
MKP USA Chair



PS: To make sure that you're receiving up to date information from the ManKind Project USA, please join the [MKP USA Broadcast List](#) and check your profile page on [MKPConnect.org](#).