

System Transformation Update

November 11, 2020

Distribution: All Medical Staff & All Staff

Message from the Chief Clinical Officer

Dear Colleagues,

In the last week, we have experienced a large increase in COVID-19 admissions across the System and a sharp increase in COVID-19 test positivity rates across our laboratories. We are clearly in a second surge of COVID-19 infections.

We have declared a Code D across the System to facilitate the rapid operational changes that may be required. Some key operational details follow.

- We are well prepared from a PPE and supply chain perspective to support and protect our clinical front lines.
- Our testing enterprise is working to increase specimen collection capacity, and continues to increase our lab capacity; we anticipate a significant testing capacity bump at the beginning of December when pooled testing and a new testing platform come on line.
- Our hospitals are working to increase the number of COVID-19 designated units and reduce the close quarters of patients in the EDs
- We are working on patient-facing materials to encourage the use of alternative settings, including PCPs, specialists, urgent care centers, etc., for non-emergent clinical evaluation.

The increased community prevalence of COVID-19 requires a change to how we manage infection control within our facilities.

- Our Infection Prevention team is transitioning from a containment to a mitigation strategy. This transition means contact tracing will be more limited, and only symptomatic or COVID-19-positive healthcare workers will need to quarantine.
- Those returning after risk travel or have symptoms concerning for COVID-19 should self-schedule testing at <https://ocucovidtesting.ynhhs.org>. No call to the Call Center is needed.
- Asymptomatic individuals with potential COVID-19 exposures should discuss with their leaders and may use Occupational Health as a resource.
- In alignment with orders the State of Connecticut, we are reducing the number of individuals who are permitted to be present for in-person meetings.
- Additional information is attached as a PDF.

As things become more dynamic, you may receive more communications regarding developments.

Please continue to check in on your colleagues to support them as we navigate this latest challenge. Thank you all for your professionalism, endurance, and commitment to serving our patients.

Warmly,

Thomas Balczak, MD MPH
Chief Clinical Officer
Yale New Haven Health

Infection Prevention

Higher-level visitor restrictions have been put in place with planned updates. Please see the [COVID resources page](#) for any changes.

Logistical Updates

Technology/Innovation

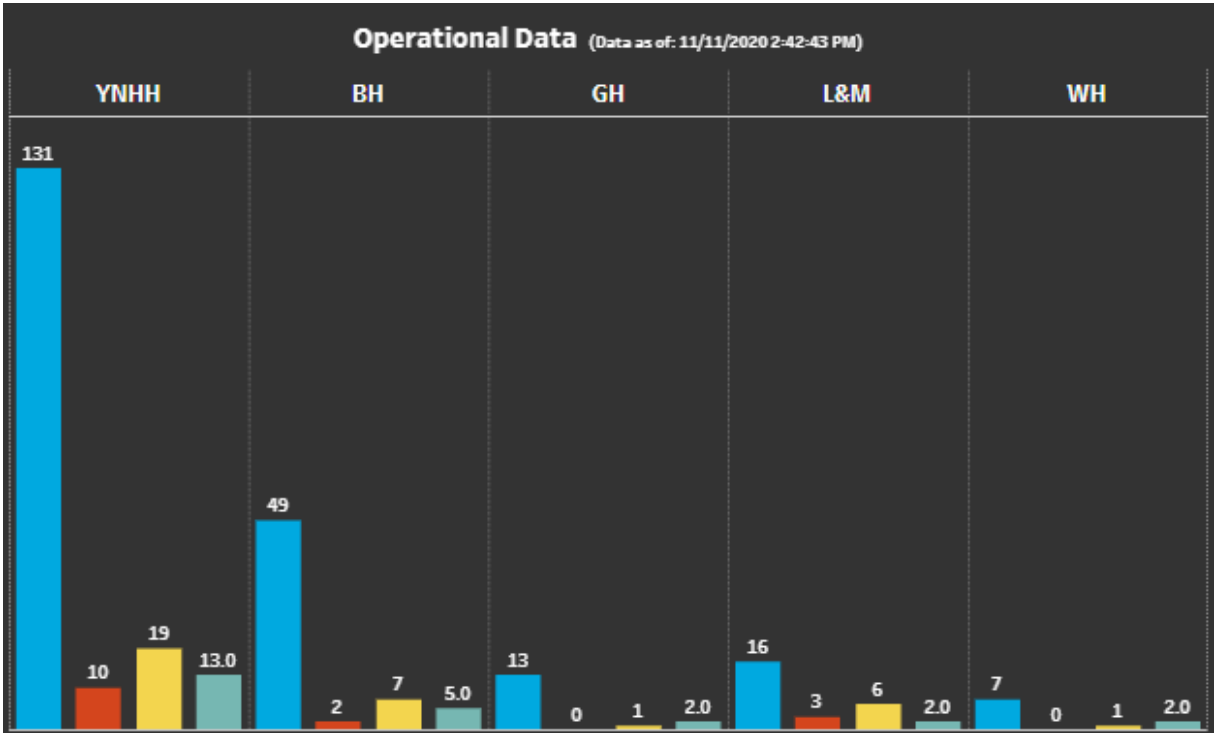
Please ensure Patient/Family Communication iPads are ready for use and place InTouch Cart in assigned room, plug into power source and power on ASAP.

HR- Labor Pool

The System Labor Pool has been activated along with hospital-specific Labor Pools for BH and YNHH. Administrative support and logistics are being brought online.

Operational Snapshot

[JDAT COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



	YNHH	BH	GH	LMH	LMW
Inpatient PUI	13 (14)	5 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	3 (0)
COVID Positive	131 (66)	49 (35)	13 (6)	16 (12)	7 (8)
COVID in ICU	19 (18)	87(3)	1 (0)	6 (3)	1 (0)

11/4/2020 (10/28/2020)

Past Week

137

Since March 14

4,478

COVID-19 patients have been **discharged** back to their lives after being treated by our **healthcare heroes**.

Resources:

System Call Center # 203-688-1700

System Radiology Hotline # 475-246-9660

Attachments to this message can also be found [here](#).

Previous All Staff updates are archived and can be accessed [here](#).