

System Incident Management Update

March 29, 2020

Distribution: All Yale New Haven Health System Employees and Medical Staff Leadership

New Updates In RED

Clinical Care/Operations Update

Clarification regarding PPE guidance issued on March 27, 2020

We continue to calibrate the distribution and implementation of the use of masks for hospital-based healthcare workers as described on Friday, March 27. It should be made clear that when working in any clinical area within the hospital, the expectation is that everyone will be wearing a mask that is appropriate for the risk in that area (N95 vs face mask). The grid circulated on Friday provides detailed guidance for duration of mask use and when respirators should be used. That document remains the primary reference for operational implementation of the policy.

Clarification regarding the use of N95 respirators for intubation

PPE recommendations across YNHHS call for use of N95 respirators, face shields, gown and gloves when providing care to patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, **including when such patients are undergoing aerosol generating procedures such as intubation or receiving ICU level care.** Our current supply of N95 respirators is sufficient to support these recommendations, which are in accordance with current national guidelines.

Given the anticipated increase in patient volume and limited supply of N95 respirators, we are also exploring alternatives, which we may deploy more broadly as our N95 resources become limited. These include N95 reprocessing, which will scale up in the coming week, and expanding the use of our limited supply of powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs) and elastomeric respirators (industrial cartridge respirators), currently being piloted in some areas. There is *no evidence* that PAPRs or elastomeric respirators are more effective in preventing transmission of viral respiratory diseases than are N95 respirators. **Intubations may be safely performed with either N95s, PAPRs or elastomeric respirators, along with gown, gloves and eye protection.**

Changes in COVID19 testing for healthcare workers

Please note the change, effective 3/27/2020, based upon [CDC guidelines](#) and constrained supply of reagents at Yale Virology.

1. Yale Virology will continue to perform all inpatient testing for all YNHHS Delivery Networks
2. Yale Virology testing is now limited to ED and inpatient healthcare workers at the York Street and St. Raphaels Campuses. These tests can only be ordered through the YNHHS COVID call center. Healthcare workers at the other delivery networks should be sent to the usual reference lab for each site.
3. Test other ambulatory patients according to CDC guidelines through established ambulatory collection sites as indicated.
4. Changes to testing processes will depend on updated national guidelines and ongoing supplies of critical testing reagents.

New non-ICU adult COVID-19 inpatient practice guidelines

A multidisciplinary group across the system including representatives from the Emergency Department, inpatient clinical dyad leaders, Infection Prevention, and Post-Acute care has developed a comprehensive practice guideline for managing patients with COVID-19 who do NOT require ICU level of care. The guidelines are attached for review and distribution.

Implementation of revised PPE guidelines (3/27)

As a reflection of our commitment to ensuring our front-line healthcare workers are protected to the maximum degree possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, new guidelines clarifying the appropriate clinical indications for the use of PPE, including N95 respirators and facemasks, were implemented on March 27. We currently have adequate supplies to protect all *healthcare workers who cannot socially distance*. We will continue to calibrate the communication of the policy, as well as improve the effective and efficient distribution of these supplies.

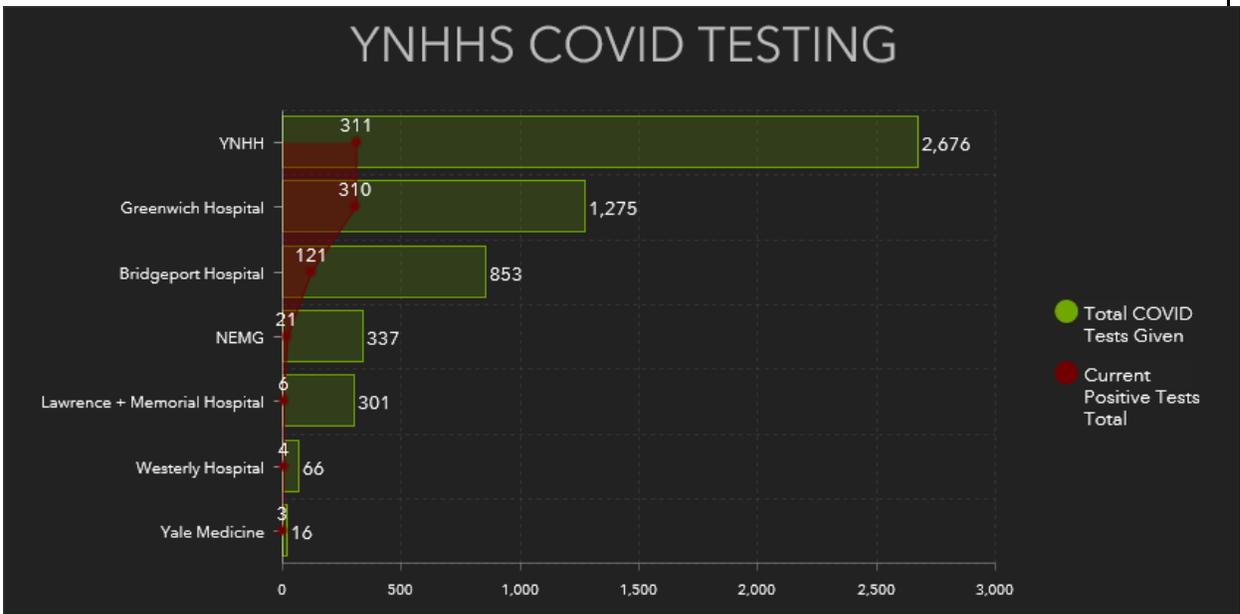
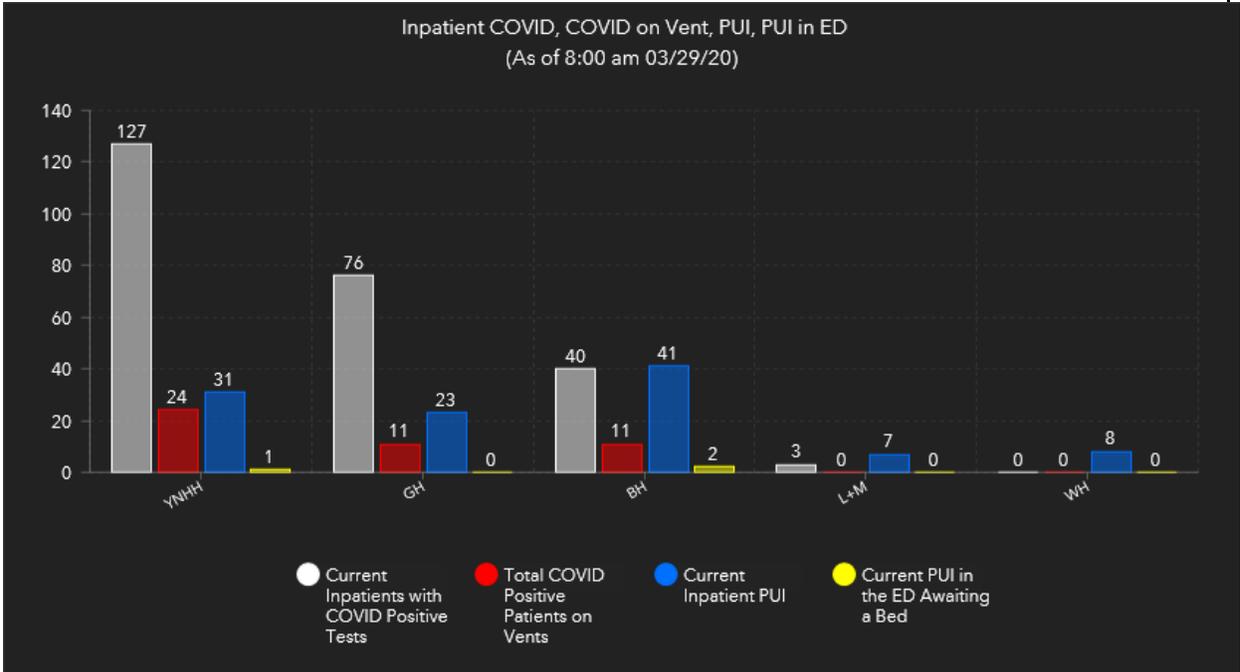
YNHHS Procedure for re-processing of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Please continue to ensure that used N95 respirators, goggles, and face shields that are not torn, broken, or visibly soiled are not discarded in the garbage and are placed in designated collection bins for reprocessing.

Use of makeup while using PPE

Our supply chain and central sterile supply departments developed an innovative process to safely and effectively reprocess critical types of PPE, including N95 respirators, face shields and protective goggles. The process can only be performed on items that have not been visibly soiled. 25 percent of collected used PPE currently has to be discarded because of makeup stains. Front-line healthcare workers who use these critical PPE items should not wear makeup to work. Cooperation is critical to our ability to have a sustainable source of essential PPE items, which are in short supply across the country.

Below you will find an overview of the total number of inpatients who are positive or under investigation with COVID-19 and updated testing results from across the Health System. These numbers are from our JDAT team.



3/29/2020 10:00am

Logistics Update

No Changes