

System Incident Management Update

April 3, 2020

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

New Updates In RED

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Updates

Clarification for visitor and staff mask usage

Visitor and staff should be using Level 1 facemasks. The level of masks relates to the fluid permeability. From an infection control perspective, all levels are equivalent. Level 3, which are more splash resistant, should be used in the ORs. If masks are deformed, torn, or visibly soiled, they should be discarded and a new one should be obtained.

PPE Reuse Collection

As part of the Health System's PPE Reuse policy, there are up to three distinct collection containers on units. One is for the collection of N95s, a second for face shields and goggles, and another dedicated to all levels (1,2 &3) of surgical masks, including looped and tie back. It is important they are properly separated. 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.

Guidance regarding substitution of small-sized N95s with universal N95s given shortages

The Health System's supplies of small-sized N95 respirators have become extremely limited. We have begun to sterilize and reprocess used small-sized N95s. Healthcare workers are advised to switch to the universal-size 1870 N95 respirator for the care of COVID-19 patients. A repeat fit test is not required as long as care does not include participation in an aerosol-generating procedure such as intubation, bronchoscopy, upper endoscopy, or sputum induction. Such procedures should be carried out by individuals wearing a respirator for which they have been fit tested.

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.

Clinical Care/Operations Update

Updated Treatment algorithm

A large group of dedicated clinicians and scientists from the School and Health System have been working for several weeks to ensure that treatment algorithms for patients with this devastation disease remain as reflective of the latest literature as possible. That group has released an updated version of the algorithms that add guidance on obtaining and interpreting clinical data.

Ventilator setting adjustments

In the event that no respiratory therapists are available to make adjustments to ventilator settings, straightforward instructions have been created to guide clinical staff in making the adjustments. Instructions for the 5 most common ventilator brands are attached. The appropriate brand instructions should be printed out, laminated, and affixed to ventilators to facilitate ready reference. The instructions should be discarded after a ventilator is reprocessed after being used on a patient.

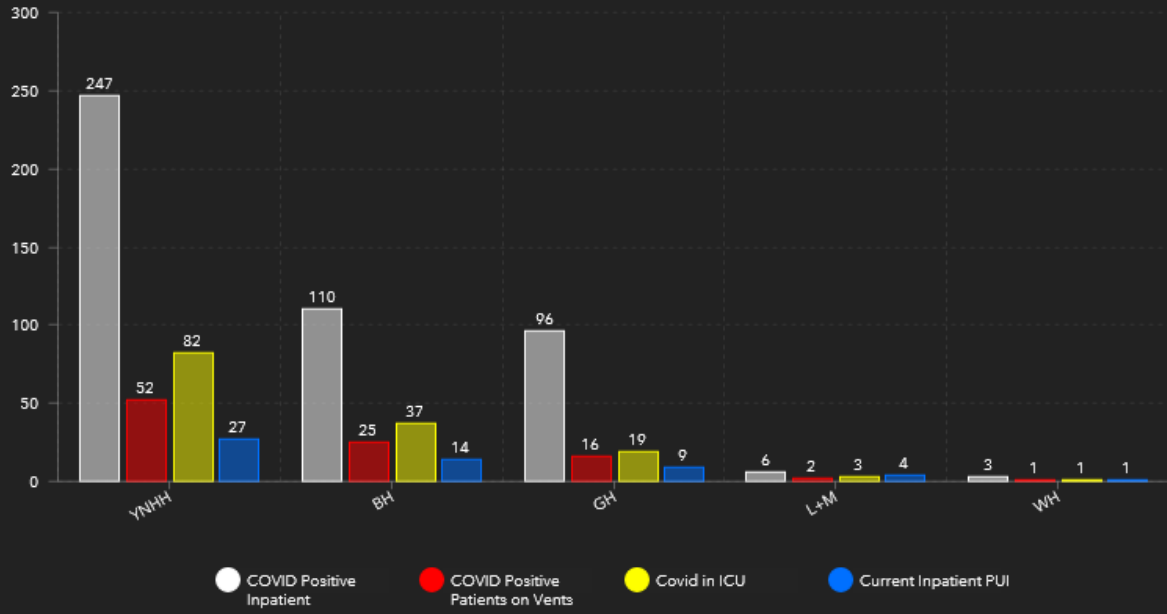
Spiritual Blessings

A Blessing Line is set up for all of our staff to call and receive a daily blessing from one of the Spiritual Care team. Call 475-246-9633 to hear the blessing each day.

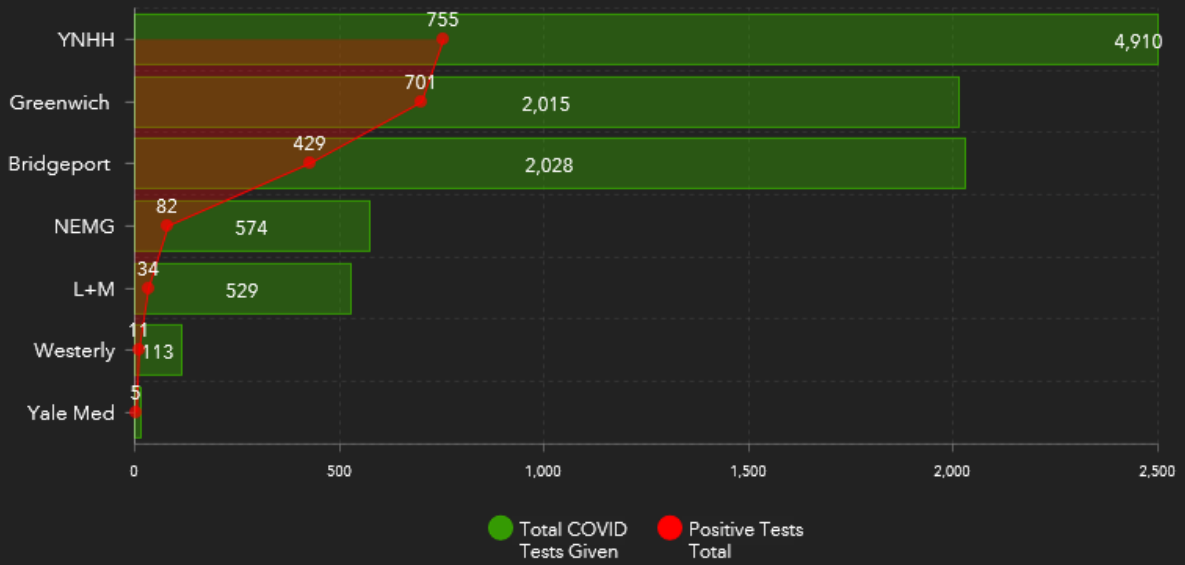
COVID-19 Related Operational Snapshot

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.

Inpatient COVID, COVID on Vent, ICU, and PUI's
(As of 9:00 am 04/03/20)



YNHHS COVID TESTING



4/3/2020 9:00am

Logistics Update

No Changes