

System Incident Management Update

April 6, 2020

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

New Updates In RED

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Updates

Small Size N95 Respirators

A limited stock of 1860S-Small size N95 Respirators has become available. Caregivers who perform high-risk aerosol generating procedures and are unable to utilize alternate size N95s or alternative PPE solutions (PAPRs, half-faced electrometric respirators) should be prioritized to receive the 1860S respirators, and should contact materials management for allocation. Non-fit tested, alternate size N95 respirators are appropriate for these individuals for other, non-aerosol generating aspects of care for COVID-19 patients.

PPE for Radiology

Updated recommendations regarding the use of chest radiography during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Radiology-specific recommendations regarding PPE use are available on the Yale Radiology website <http://www.radiology.yale.edu> and via the radiology hot line 475-246-9660.

Clarification for mask usage

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

Employee Testing and Return to Work Guidance

Employees should complete an Online Injury/Exposure report in the event of an unprotected exposure to a COVID-19 patient. Those with fever or respiratory symptoms should follow the usual process of manager notification, and should also contact Occupational Health through the COVID-19 Call Center (203-688-1700). Notification of COVID test results will occur as soon as they are available. Those who test positive will require at least 14 days of home isolation, as well as clearance from Occupational Health prior to returning to work.

Infection prevention contact email

We are working to streamline the workflow as the volume of questions and requests continues to increase for our Infection Prevention colleagues. Starting immediately, please utilize the below email address for your inquiries about COVID-19 and they will be triaged with a goal of replying within 48 hours. If you require an urgent response, please indicate that in the subject line. Do not use this email for patient consults that are urgent in nature, follow your normal process for those communications.

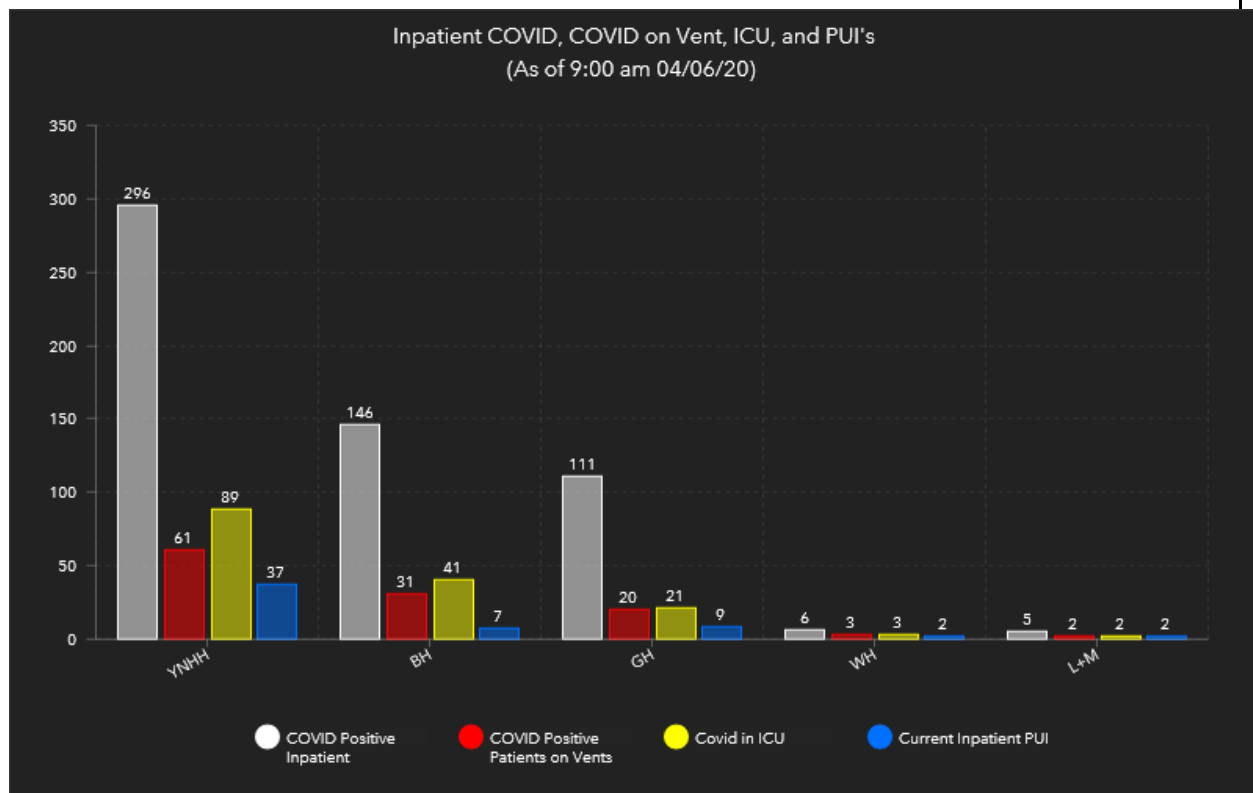
COVID_InfectionPrevention@ynhh.org

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 **475-246-9663** 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.



YNHHS COVID TESTING

