

System Incident Management Update

April 7, 2020

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

New Updates In RED

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Updates

Update to YNHHS/YM PPE Policy for COVID-19 Respiratory Protection

The System Incident Management Ambulatory action team has worked with Infection Prevention, Occupational Health, Supply Chain and clinical leaders at the Health System and Yale Medicine to add ambulatory guidance to the PPE policy released last week (see attached). Guidelines for patients and visitors have also been incorporated into the updated policy.

PPE donation

The Health System's Corporate Supply Chain is critical to ensuring we can continue to equip our healthcare workers to safely care for patients during this pandemic. Since January, the team has been working to increasing traditional PPE, identify safe and effective alternatives, develop the ability to reprocess items, and also set up a program to receive, verify quality, and distribute donations from the community. In the 10 days that the donations program has been operational, we have experienced a remarkable show of support from the communities we serve. The Health System has received over 650,000 individual PPE items, including 41,000 N95s, unrated facemarks suitable for patient use, gloves, and tens of thousands of gowns and shoe covers. These items have all been carefully inspected and verified to be safe for clinical use, and many of these items are being distributed to the front lines. While the donations program is not the Health System's main channel to maintain adequate supplies of scarce PPE, it makes a significant difference, and we are immensely grateful to those in our communities for going to great lengths to support our healthcare workers.

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.

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 are continuing to 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.

Guidance regarding temporary accommodations for Yale New Haven Hospital healthcare workers

Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale Medicine have secured options for the temporary housing of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 outbreak. These include asymptomatic staff meeting the following criteria:

- On-site mission critical staff whose work schedule and commute necessitate accommodation in close proximity to the Hospital
- Employees who are working and are symptom-free, and who are requesting temporary accommodations because of a household member considered at high risk.

The attached documents include a SBAR describing the phases and accommodation request/approval process, a process chart; and the form that managers must provide to employees seeking accommodations. Note that the request requires approval by the Executive Director or above.

Tele-ICU

Ongoing collaboration between ITS and our Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine leadership has resulted in a dramatic expansion of tele-ICU services across the system, with 149 tele-equipped rooms now available (up from 41 before the pandemic began). The increased need for critical care support for patient with COVID-19 at GH spurred demand for additional ICU clinical expertise. This need led to a successful pilot where remotely located Respiratory Therapists, critical care physicians and others experts can provide remote real-time clinical management and support for ICU teams across the Health System and region.

Clarification: CDC NY self-quarantine recommendations

The CDC has recently recommended that all transportation and delivery drivers who were recently in the affected areas of New York, as well as residents who were recently in NY, self-quarantine for 14 days. However, those working in healthcare in New York continue to provide services, and YNHHS and YM are similarly not currently recommending home isolation for asymptomatic staff who live in or have recently traveled to NY. Employees should continue to self-monitor for fever and other COVID symptoms, and report any health issues to their supervisor. This will be circulated to all Medical Staff and all Health System Employees.

YNHHS Rehab Services Guidelines

The availability and use of inpatient physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech & language pathology (SLP) has been significantly limited during the COVID 19 pandemic. The leadership of the Health System rehabilitation services has developed guidelines to clarify expectations for inpatient PT/OT and SLP consultations at this time.

ITS request clarification

Reconfiguring our health system to meet the needs of the COVID-19 crisis has required ITS to rapidly deploy and drastically reconfigure our technology

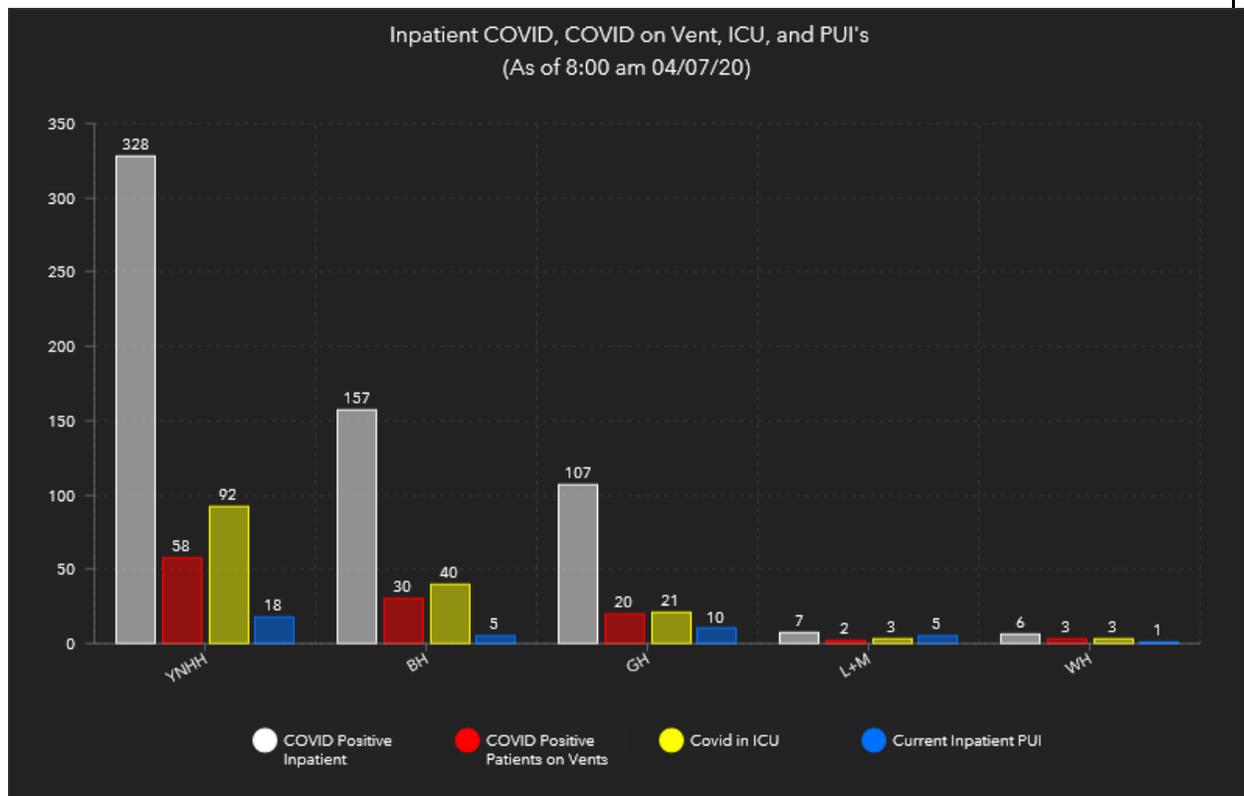
infrastructure. In order to ensure requests are processed and prioritized in a systematic fashion, ITS has developed guidance for submitting ITS requests. The detailed resource is attached.

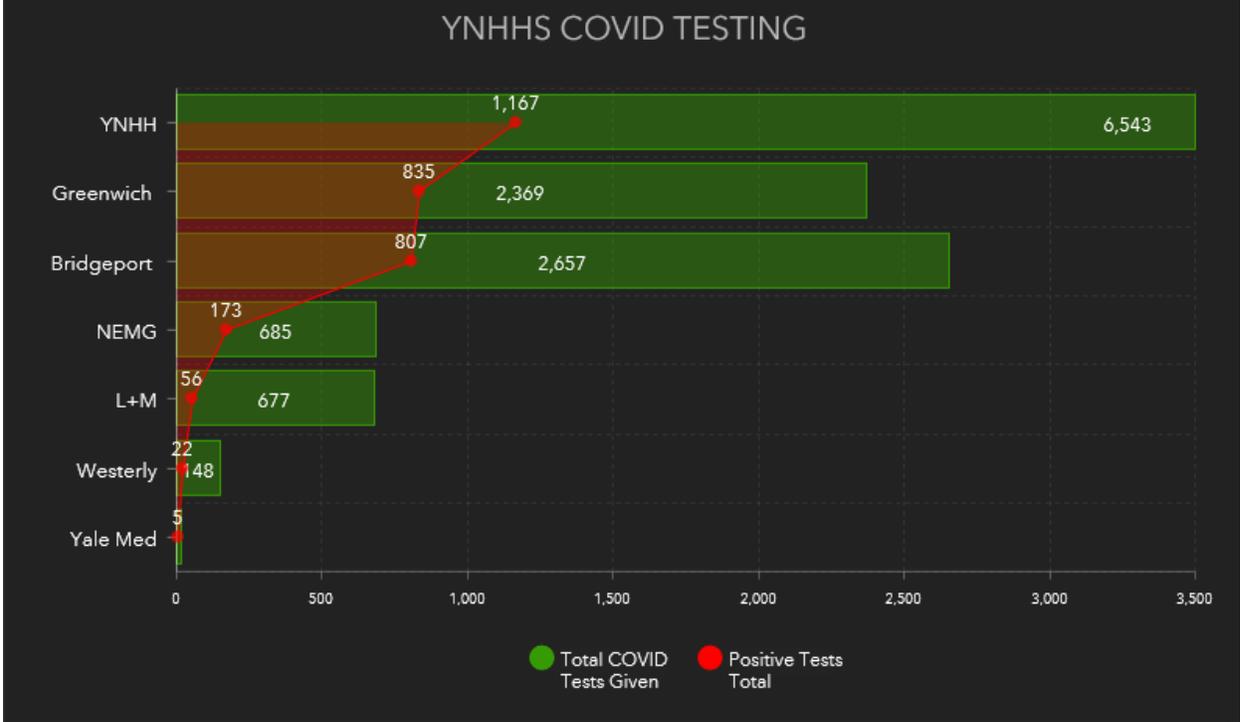
Clarification on shrouds

As our nursing staff are being redeployed outside of their traditional sites of work, including to other delivery networks in the Health System, questions have arisen regarding the specific shrouds used to safely and respectfully secure remains of patients who have died. There are multiple acceptable shrouds available through the supply chain/materials management process. A system-wide task force in 2019 identified the multiple options that are acceptable. Not all are consistently available through our suppliers, so they can be substituted with those listed in the attached document

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.





Discharges

Across the Health System, 43 COVID-19 Positive patients were discharged yesterday.