

## System Incident Management Update

April 9, 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. 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. Since the program became operational, the Health System has received over 650,000 individual PPE items, including 41,000 N95s, unrated face masks suitable for patient use, gloves, and tens of thousands of gowns and shoe covers. These items have 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.

**Clinical Care/Operations Update**

**COVID-19 ISO reason - patient headers**

FYI flags will no longer be used to identify those patients who are known positive or awaiting COVID test results. Instead, the COVID-19 and R/O COVID-19 isolation designations will be displayed in the patient header. This occurs automatically when a COVID-19 lab test is ordered. The designation can also be made through the Isolation Reason Activity in Epic. For employees who are self-isolating at home, Occupational Health can update the header through the Infection/isolation Status section in the COVID-19 flowsheet activity. Please see attachments for SBARs and detailed directions.

### **Hand sanitizer**

Due to critical national shortages of hand sanitizer, YNHHS Pharmacy will be preparing hand sanitizer following FDA and WHO guidance. Please note that the new formula will not be foamy. The sanitizer will be dispensed in 4oz bottles and distributed throughout the system. DO NOT dispose of the bottles after use; they can be refilled.

### **Update on drug pharmacy shortages**

The Health System's Corporate Pharmacy Services keeps a close watch on drugs in short supply. They have had a longstanding process to monitor for shortages, work with our System's Formulary Integration Committee to ensure clinician input, and work to update Epic ordering screens based upon the availability of specific medications. An update on current shortages is attached.

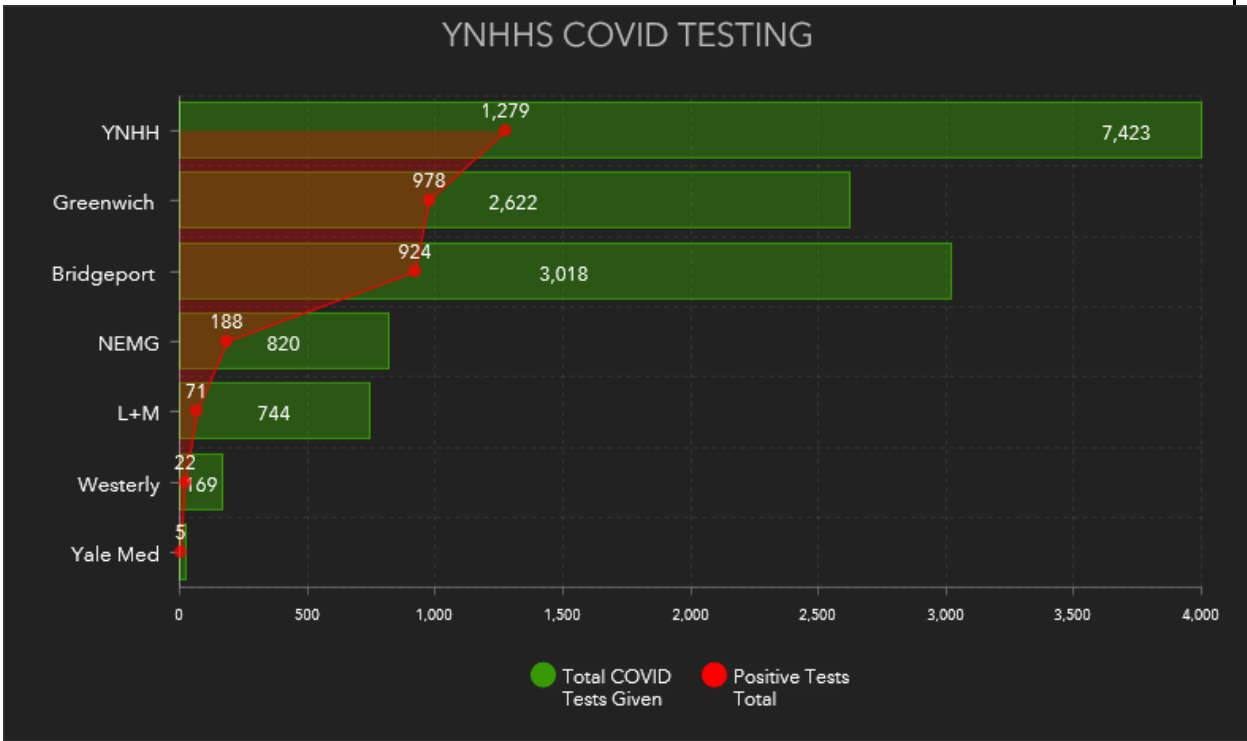
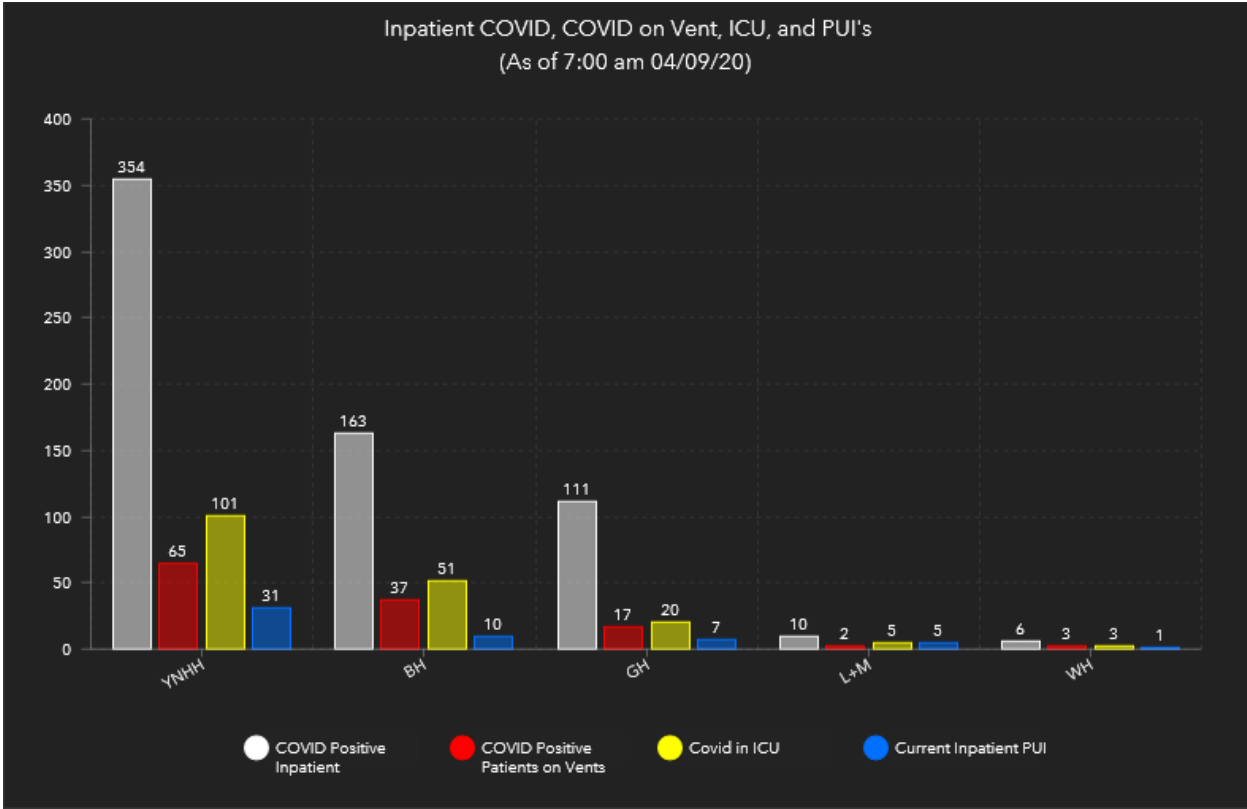
### **Infection prevention contact email**

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**

### **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.



4/9/2020 9:00am

### Discharges

Across the Health System, 47 COVID-19 Positive patients were discharged yesterday.

