

System Incident Management Update

April 10, 2020

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

New Updates In RED

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Updates

YNHHS/YM PPE Policy

The most updated PPE policy includes Ambulatory guidance, as well as guidance for patients and visitors. This policy and related FAQ are available on the Clinical Resources site at: <https://www.ynhhs.org/patient-care/covid-19/for-employees.aspx>

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 use alternate size N95s or alternative PPE solutions should be prioritized to receive them. 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 fluid permeability. From an infection control perspective, all levels are equivalent. Level 3, which are more splash resistant, should be used in the ORs.

PPE reuse and 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. Please do not wear makeup such as foundation or lipstick as they soil the facemasks and respirators making them ineligible for reprocessing. *Makeup is the #1 cause of being unable to reprocess.*

PPE donation

The Health System's Corporate Supply Chain is critical to ensuring we can continue to equip our healthcare workers. While donations are not the Health System's main channel to maintain PPE supplies, they make a significant difference, and we are immensely grateful for them. Prior to distribution, all donations are inspected and verified to be safe for clinical use. For donations, send an email to donationsPPE@ynhh.org. They will contact the donor and make arrangements for donation.

Clinical Care/Operations Update

Endoscopy standard operating procedure: airborne & contact precautions

The Airborne and Contact Precautions Provision of Care SOP for endoscopy has been revised (see attached). This document includes detailed guidance on scheduling, PPE, endoscopy center pre and post procedure processes, room cleaning, and bedside procedures, among other important topics.

Outpatient prescribing of medication for possible COVID-19 therapy

Outpatient prescribing of hydroxychloroquine, HIV-1 protease inhibitors, and azithromycin should be reserved ONLY for patients who have medical conditions where their use has been established in the inpatient setting. To promote the appropriate prescribing of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, a combination of clinical decision support tools were created and have been updated removing the prior restriction on refills.

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. Attached are guidelines to clarify use of these services.

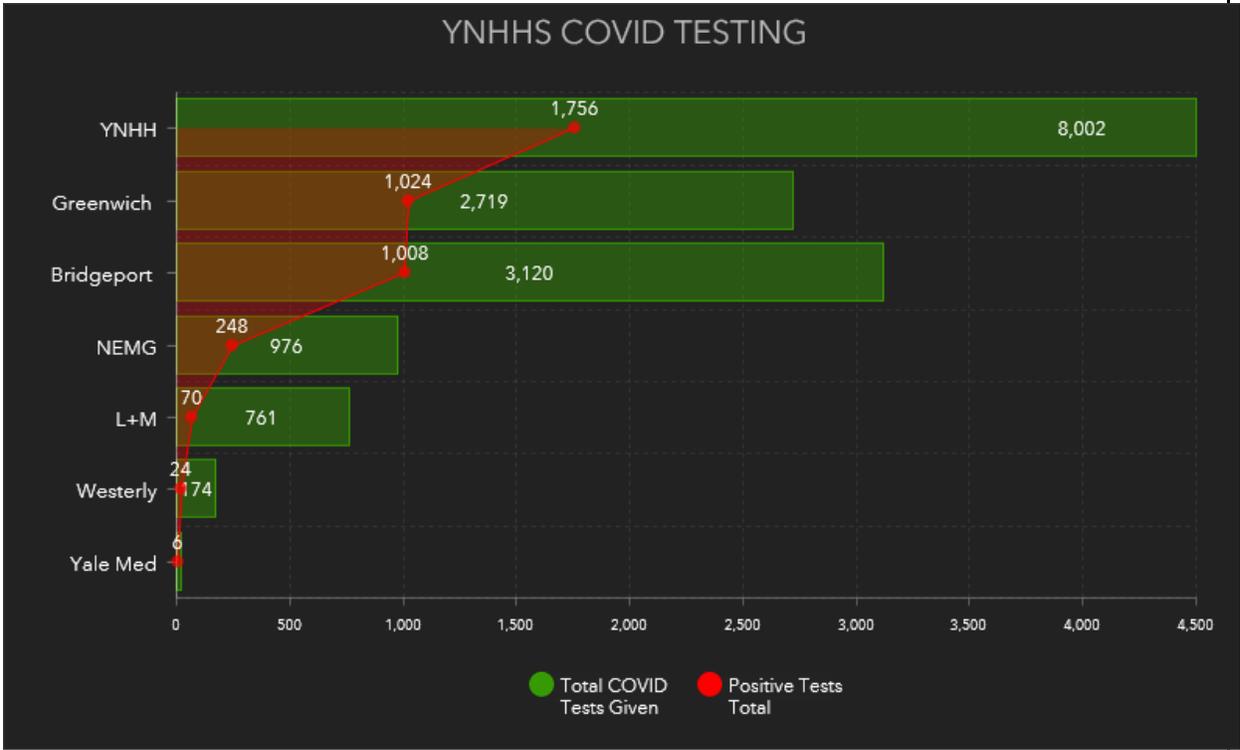
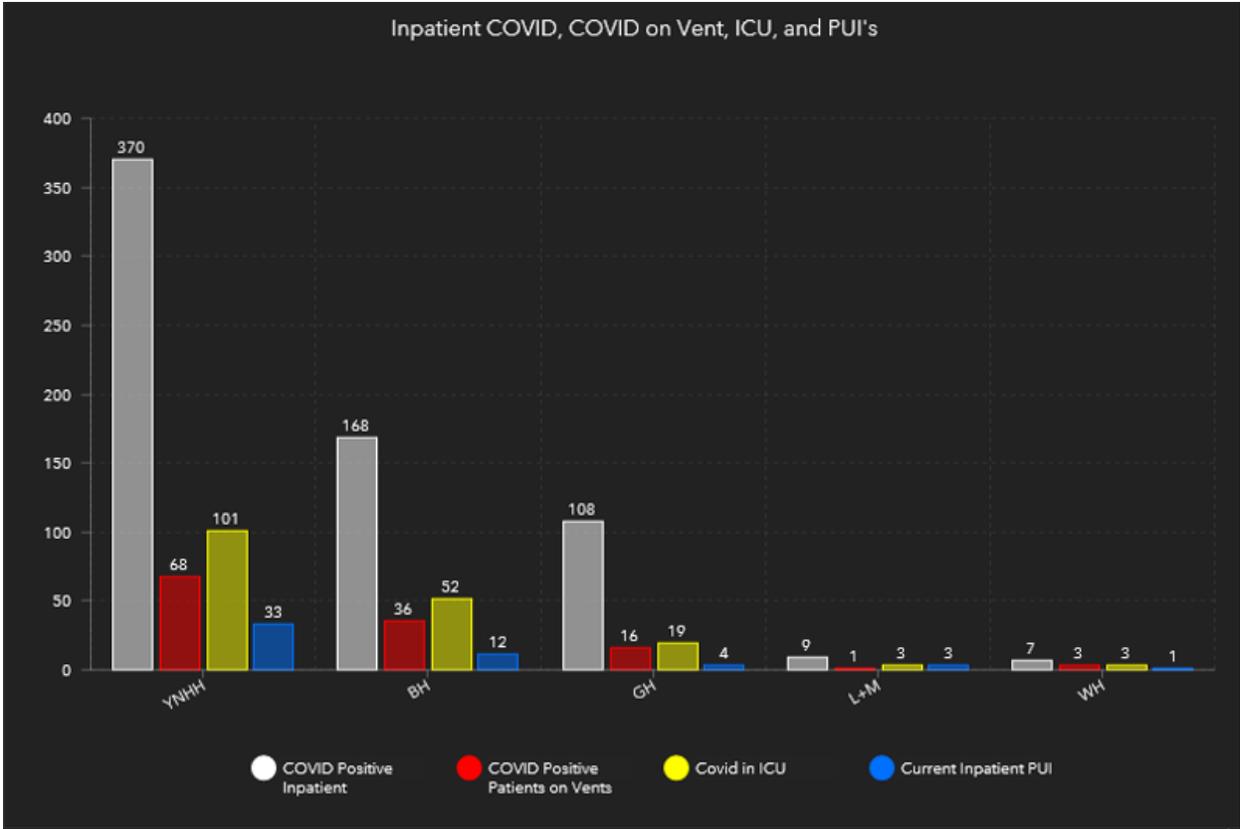
Infection prevention contact email

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.



Discharges

Across the Health System, 62 COVID-19 Positive patients were discharged yesterday.