

System Incident Management Update

April 11, 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**Hand carry specimens to lab**

Since specimens can leak during transport in the pneumatic tube system, it is critical to hand carry infectious specimens to the lab. CDC recently expanded the list of bodily fluids/excretions which contain live SARS-CoV2 to include stool. Infection Prevention is thus recommending that stool specimens from patients with known or suspected COVID-19 to be hand carried and not sent through the pneumatic tube system. The SBAR from Infection Prevention is attached.

Infection prevention contact email

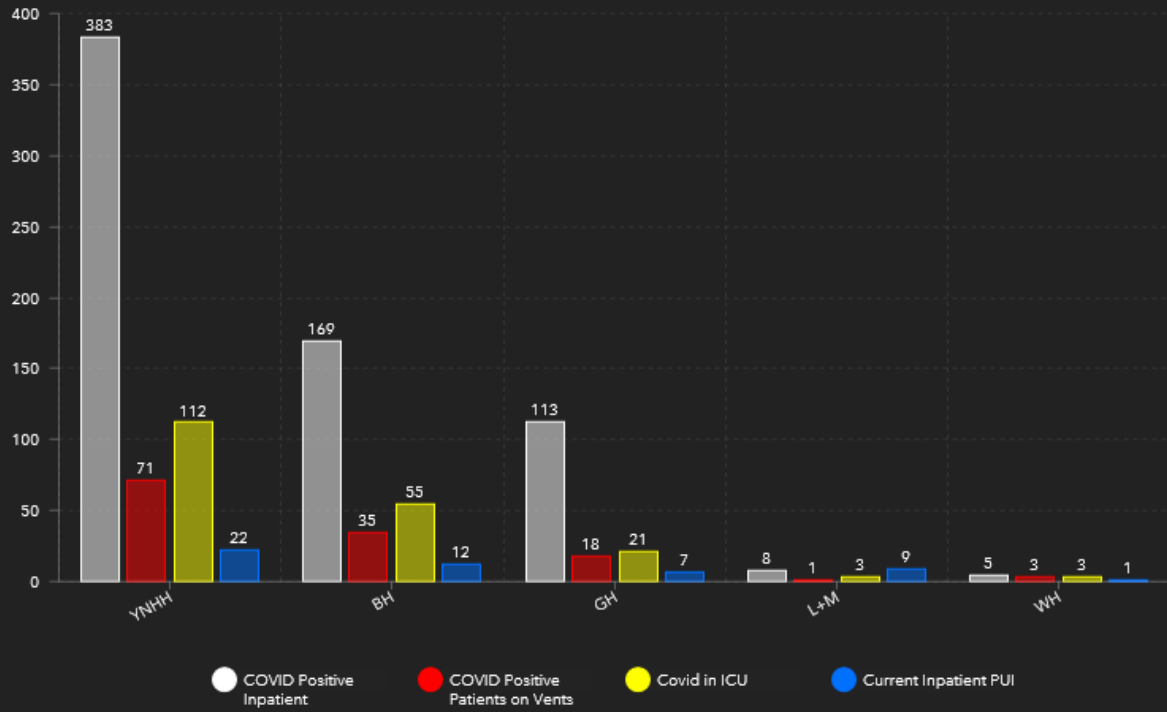
We are working to streamline the workflow as the volume of questions and requests continues to increase for our Infection Prevention colleagues. Starting immediately, please utilize the below email address for your inquiries about COVID-19 and they will be triaged with a goal of replying within 48 hours. 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

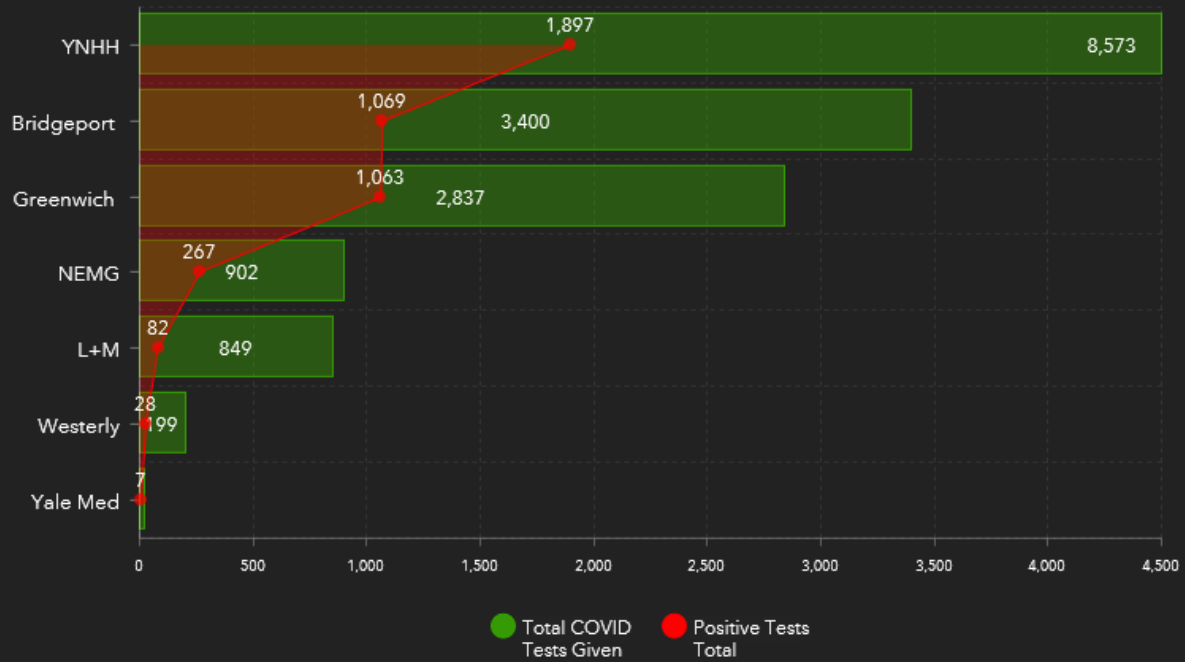
COVID-19 Related Operational Snapshot

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.

Inpatient COVID, COVID on Vent, ICU, and PUI's
(As of 8:30 am 04/11/20)



YNHHS COVID TESTING



Discharges

Across the Health System, 64 COVID-19 Positive patients were discharged yesterday.