

System Incident Management Update

April 18, 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

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 the limited supplies of small-sized N95s. 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.*

Clinical Care/Operations Update

Nebulizer Treatments for Non-COVID Patients

Patients with COVID-19 should not receive nebulizer treatments under any circumstances, since they can facilitate aerosol spread of the SARS-CoV2 virus. For patients who do NOT have COVID-19, nebulizer treatments can be given, but precautions should be taken in case the patients are asymptomatic carriers of the SARS-CoV2 virus. For these patients without COVID-19, the attached sign was developed to help identify the appropriate time when respirators should be used by healthcare workers.

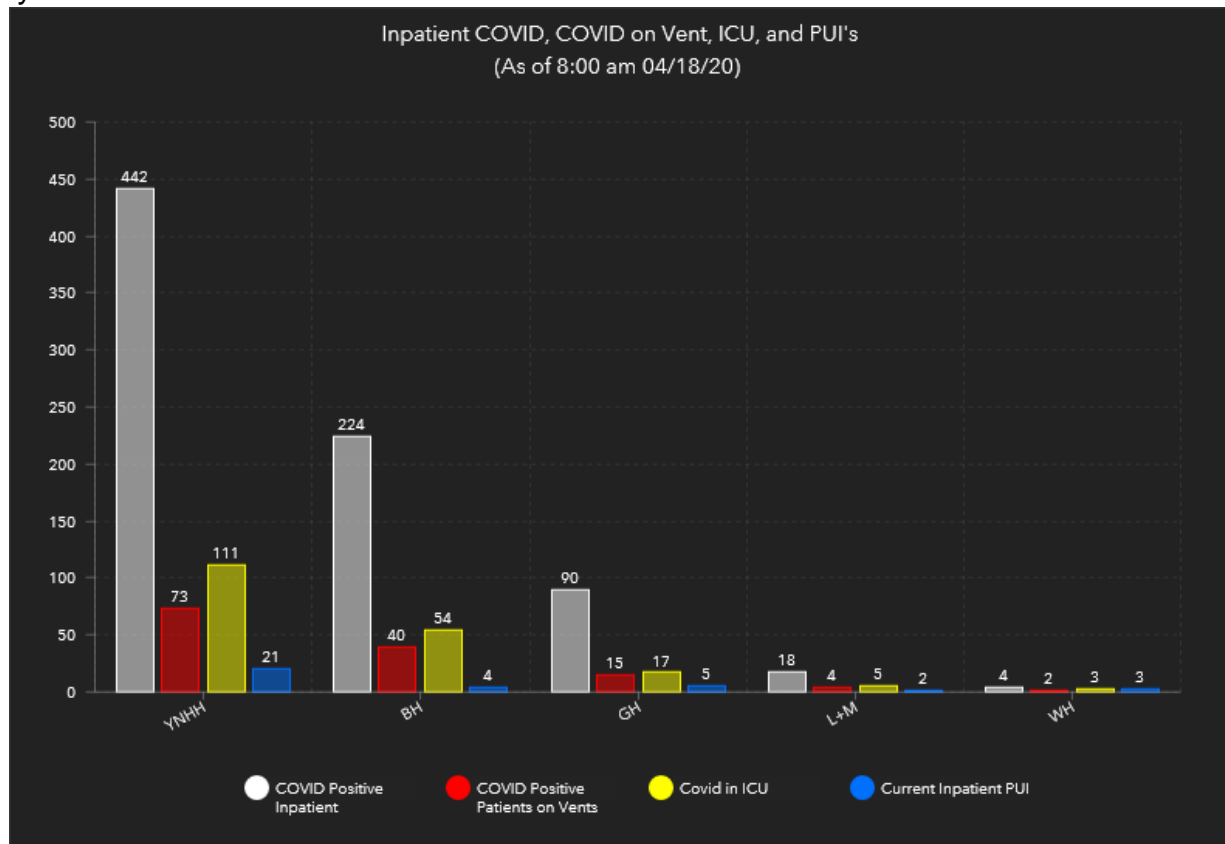
Infection prevention contact email

Please utilize the below email address for your inquiries about COVID-19 - they will be triaged with a goal of replying within 48 hours, please indicate in the subject if urgent. Please do not use this email for patient consults that are urgent in nature.

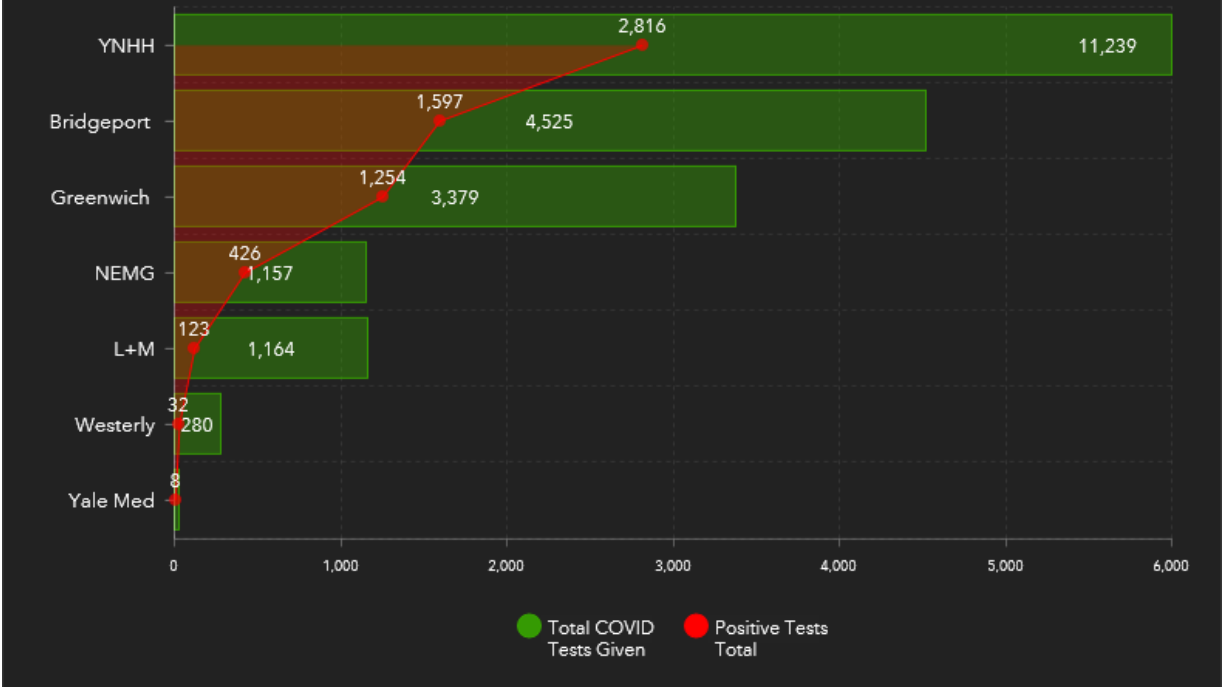
COVID_InfectionPrevention@ynhh.org

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.



YNHHS COVID TESTING



4/18/2020 9:00am

Yesterday

71

Since March 14

916

COVID-19 patients have been **discharged** back to their lives after being treated by our **healthcare heroes**.

#inthistgether

