

System Incident Management Update

April 21, 2020

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

New Updates

Order of Use

The inventory of PPE is now more diverse than usual. Everyone should expect to see different facemasks, protective clothing, and N95 respirators and equivalents. In order to help providers determine which protective equipment should be used presently, attached is a PDF with an "Order of Use" description for facemasks, respirators, and protective clothing. For instance, we are currently using non-ASTM masks for droplet precautions and universal masking as indicated in the attached document.

Small N95

The supply of 3M 1860 Small N95s remains very low. These are not available for purchase, nor are any 3M occupational versions with similar fit characteristics. Reprocessed 1860 Small respirators will be distributed. It is important that these respirators be reserved for healthcare personnel fitting the 1860 Small who are involved in high risk aerosol generating procedures. As recommended previously, those caregivers may retain an 1860 Small respirator to be available for their use during an aerosol-generating procedure or resuscitation response. For other aspects of COVID-19 patient care, they may use a non-fit tested N95, such as a 3M 1860, 3M 1870, or Cardinal small N95.

Universal masking

The CDC, State of Connecticut, and Connecticut DPH support universal masking. Patients and visitors are strongly encouraged to bring their own mask. Patients and visitors who do not have a mask will be provided a mask upon arrival, supplies permitting. Healthcare personnel should continue to obtain a mask through their current mechanism (on a daily or weekly basis as previously indicated). At the end of the indicated time period, healthcare personnel are encouraged to recycle their mask and obtain a new one before departing to ensure that they have a mask to wear the following shift.

Frequency of Progress Notes for COVID19 Patients

In light of the risks and stressors created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the YNHH Medical Executive Committee (MEC) agreed unanimously to relax the daily progress note requirement as stated in Medical Staff Rule #18 as follows. This language has been circulated to the CMOs of all Health System hospitals for consideration by their MECs as well.

- Until the Hospital out of Code D status, progress notes may be written twice per week for any stable patient, including convalescing COVID19 patients and other non-intensive care unit patients.

Patient/family iPads – updated instructions

Please use this most updated version for Zoom to work. An update for the Zoom app requires the meeting password to be changed between patients. Revised instructions for use of the Zoom app for iPads used to facilitate communications between patients and their families have been updated and clarified in the document attached.

Phenobarbital for alcohol withdrawal guidelines

Due to the current surge in critically ill, intubated patients in the ICU, current supplies of sedatives, including benzodiazepines are anticipated to be in critical short supply. Due to this critical shortage, phenobarbital could be considered for the management of alcohol withdrawal syndrome (AWS). The guideline attached provides guidance for the use of phenobarbital for the management of AWS and promotes safe and appropriate use in this setting.

Update on drug pharmacy shortages

The Health System's Corporate Pharmacy Services keeps a close watch on drugs in short supply and provide regular updates; there are no significant changes for this week. An update on current shortages is attached.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

YNHHS/YM PPE Policy

- The ambulatory and inpatient policy and related FAQ are available on the Clinical Resources site at: <https://www.ynhhs.org/patient-care/covid-19/for-employees.aspx>

PPE reuse and collection

- 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 the three distinct 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 reuse policy and other information can be found on the Clinical Resources page at: <https://www.ynhhs.org/patient-care/covid-19/for-employees.aspx>

Clinical Care/Operations

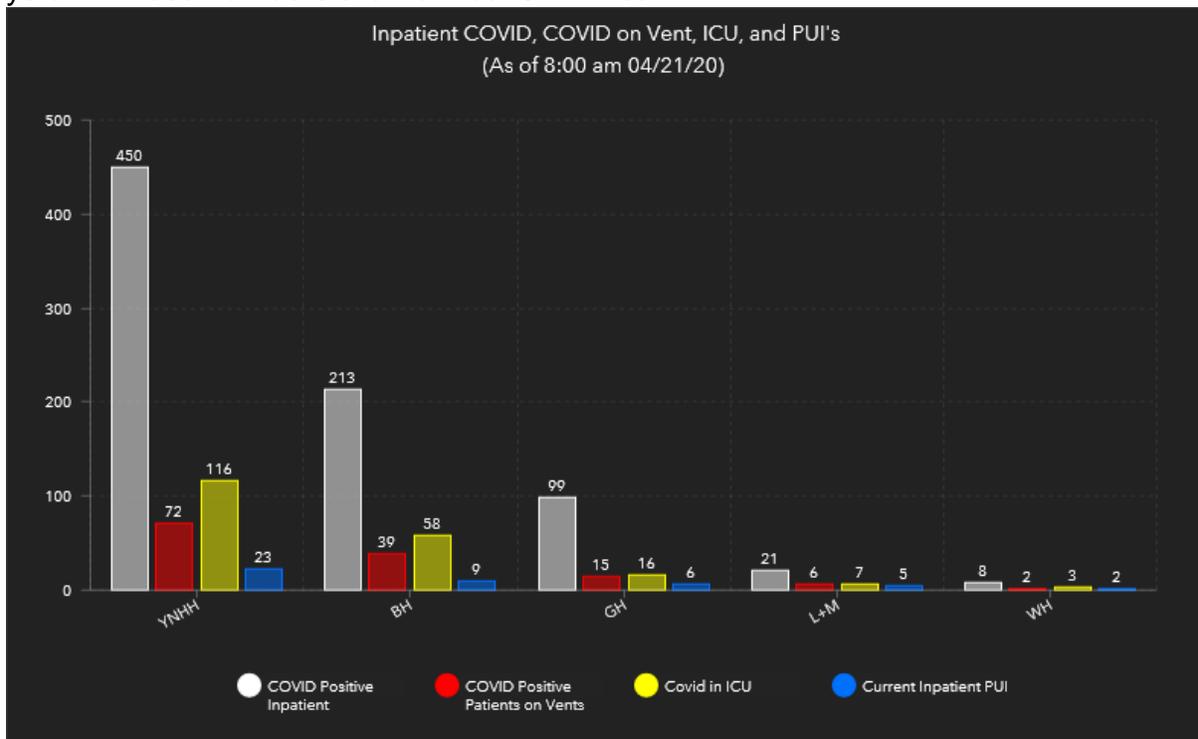
Infection prevention contact email

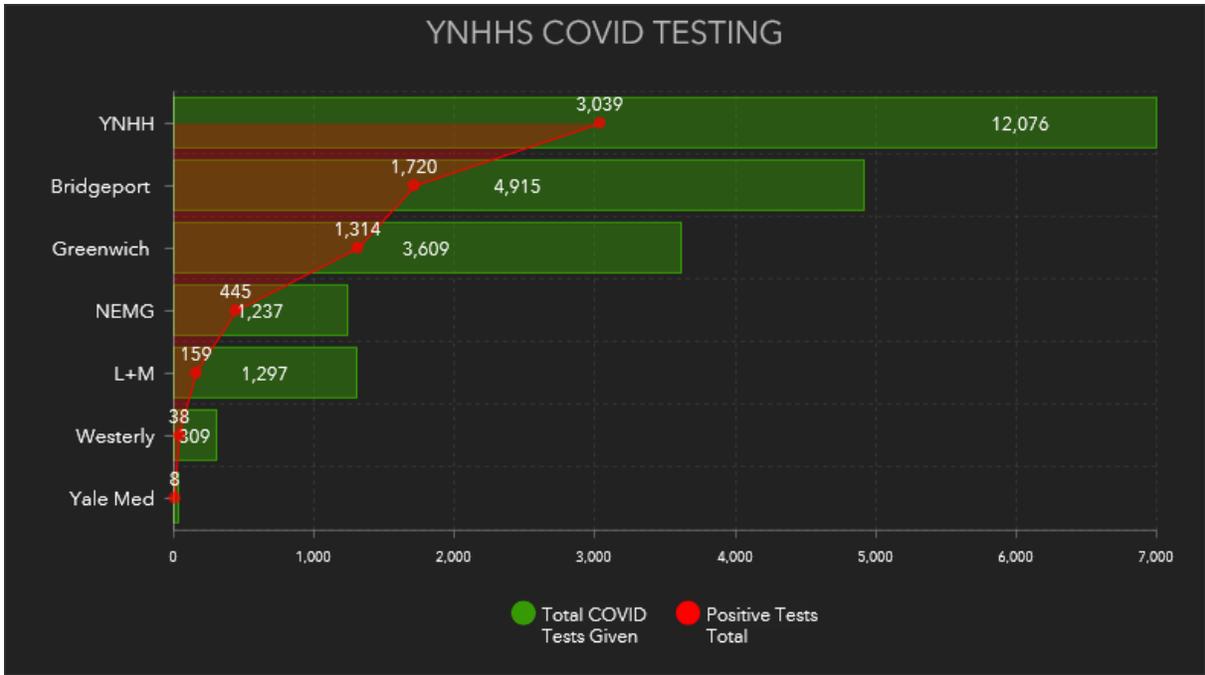
Please utilize the below email address for your inquiries about COVID-19 - they will be triaged with a goal of replying within 48 hours, please indicate in the subject if urgent. Please do not use this email for patient consults that are urgent in nature.

COVID_InfectionPrevention@ynhh.org

Operational Data

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.





4/21/2020 9:00am

Yesterday

55

Since March 14

1,043

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

From the desk of Isabelle

Once upon a time there was a group of nurses who were actually crime fighters, and they fought all the bad viruses that were attacking the people but their worst enemy COVID-19! It looked a lot like a crown and then it started attacking the citizens that were forced to flee to their homes. They stayed inside for a little while but the nurses won and the people were free all thanks to the heroic awesome nurses and all the other places all over the world!



Resources:

Attachments to this message can also be found [here](#).

Previous updates are archived and can be accessed [here](#).