

System Incident Management Update

May 6, 2020

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

New Updates In RED

Letter from the Chief Clinical Officer

Dear Colleagues,

We continue to witness a slight increase in the numbers of new patients hospitalized with COVID-19, but the increased numbers are slightly being offset by strong numbers of patients recovering from COVID-19 being discharged home. Given the recent warm weather and increased likelihood of people venturing outside their homes, it seems likely we will see a slight increase in the virus's spread. We will monitor closely how public health measures like universal masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing mitigate infectious spread.

We are actively planning for a system-wide approach to ramping up COVID-19 testing, which will be critical for safely restarting parts of our clinical operations like elective procedures, diagnostic imaging, and in-person clinic visits. Many thanks to Drs. Peter Schulam and Scott Sussman for coordinating and leading this effort, in close collaboration with Infection Prevention, Corporate Supply Chain, and leaders of our Service Lines and clinical services.

The ramp-up process will require us to devise new workflows and care pathways to provide the much-needed healthcare services to our communities in a way that ensures our patients and healthcare workers safety. We will continue to communicate developments regularly as they become more clear in the coming days and weeks.

Many thanks for your patience, flexibility, empathy and professionalism in continuing to serve our patients during the pandemic.

Warmly,



Thomas Balcezak, MD
Chief Clinical Officer
Yale New Haven Health

New Updates for May 6

Resuscitation protocol

The Resuscitation Protocol implemented across the System during the COVID-19 Emergency continues to be in force, and its use continues to be monitored closely. In close collaboration with the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer and our Ethics advisory group, ITS has revised code orders to add a field to indicate whether or not code status is being modified based upon invocation of the Resuscitation Protocol. If the Protocol is being invoked, a field indicating the identity of the second concurring attending is now available to fill out. This should streamline reliable communication and documentation of the clinical decision-making process.

COVID-19 Recovery – Testing, PPE, and clinical triage

A key part of recovery is developing coherent guidelines for COVID testing for all settings of care (procedures, ambulatory clinics, diagnostic testing, hospital-based, etc.), and tightly coordinating them with PPE use and supply and clinical triage to provide necessary care to the patients we serve while ensuring the safety of our healthcare workers. A component of this will include intermittent testing of healthcare workers. A system-wide group being led by Dr. Scott Sussman, Dr. Peter Schulam and other clinical leaders representing the spectrum of clinical settings is being organized. In order to adequately resume all aspects of our clinical enterprise, Drs. Sussman and Schulam's group will work to coordinate a substantial increase in testing capacity from 3,000 tests per week currently to roughly 10,000 tests per day by July. Additionally the system is exploring self-collection techniques to streamline the sampling process. We will continue to communicate details of the group's organization and work as they become clear.

Surgical airway guidelines

COVID 19 requires extreme caution when performing aerosolizing procedures. During emergent invasive airway procedures, such caution and preparation can be extremely difficult. Surgical services and key stakeholders have created draft standard operating procedure to provide clear guidance to primary teams, ICUs and emergency departments on early recognition, consultation and preparation for emergent invasive airway management.

Alternate COVID-19 sample collection kits

Nasopharyngeal swabs and media are in short supply. As such, alternative COVID sample collection kits have been assembled using clear PBS and assorted swab types. Please see the attached document for guidelines around use of these alternate sample collection kits.

Adult and pediatric ambulatory home management treatment guidelines

The Ambulatory Task Force approved the ambulatory home management treatment guidelines for both pediatric and adult patients. The algorithms provide guidance to clinicians on home management of COVID-19 positive patients with mild, moderate or severe symptoms. Please see the attached adult and pediatric algorithms.

Pediatric ambulatory office triage guidelines

The pediatric office triage guidelines for patient calls with respiratory symptoms have been edited to align with the recommendation of home isolation for 14 days. Please see the updated attached algorithm.

Pediatric ambulatory negative testing algorithm

The Ambulatory Task Force team approved a pediatric algorithm that provides guidance to clinicians for self-isolation, monitoring, and repeat testing when symptomatic patients less than 18 years of age test negative for COVID-19. Please see the attached document for the algorithm.

Updated ICU COVID-19 practice guidelines

Please see the attached document for updates to the COVID-19 ICU practice guidelines. These updates include added guidance for tracheostomy care, added recommendations for spontaneous breathing trials, added reference to the PT/OT/SLP and mobility guidelines for COVID-19 patients, updated verbiage for gowns for endotracheal intubation and emergent cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and updated verbiage for postmortem care PPE.

Inpatient drug therapy comprehensive guide

YNHHS Pharmacy has consolidated all COVID-19 related materials into a single “one stop shop” resource document. This document is accessible via the link below, and contains all COVID-19 pharmacy related documentation (not including the Treatment Algorithm). This is updated daily to ensure the most up to date information is available.

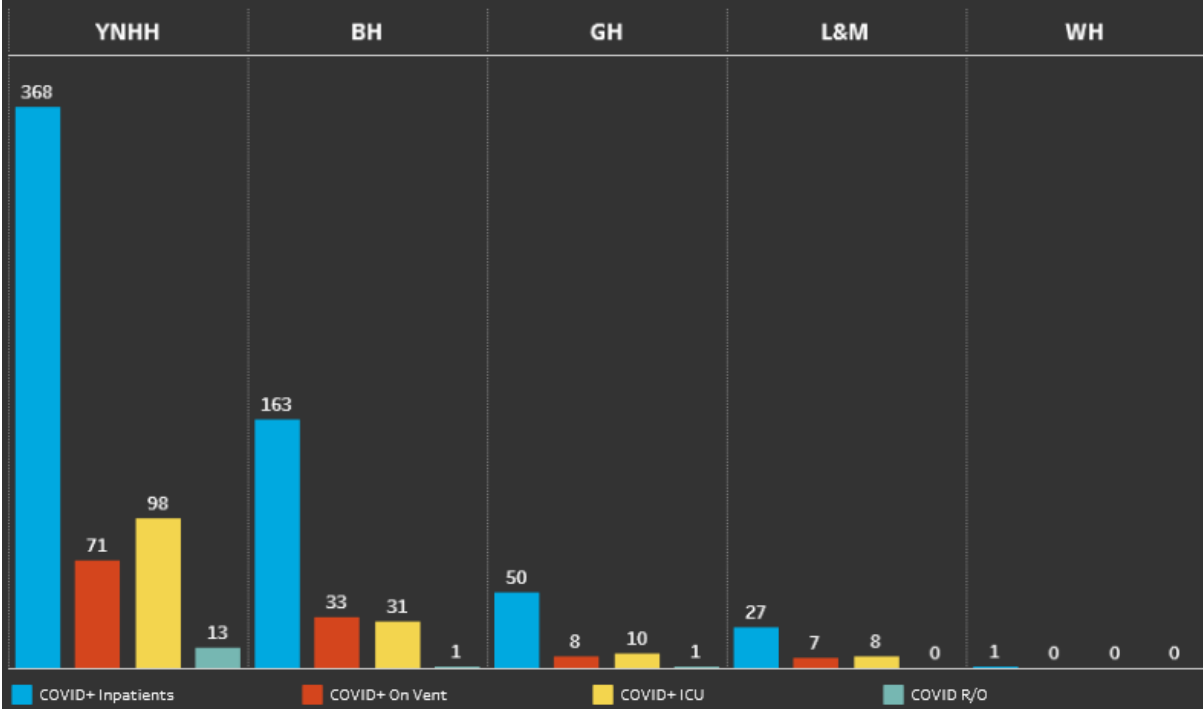
[COVID-19 Inpatient Drug Therapy Comprehensive Guide](#)

Update on drug shortages

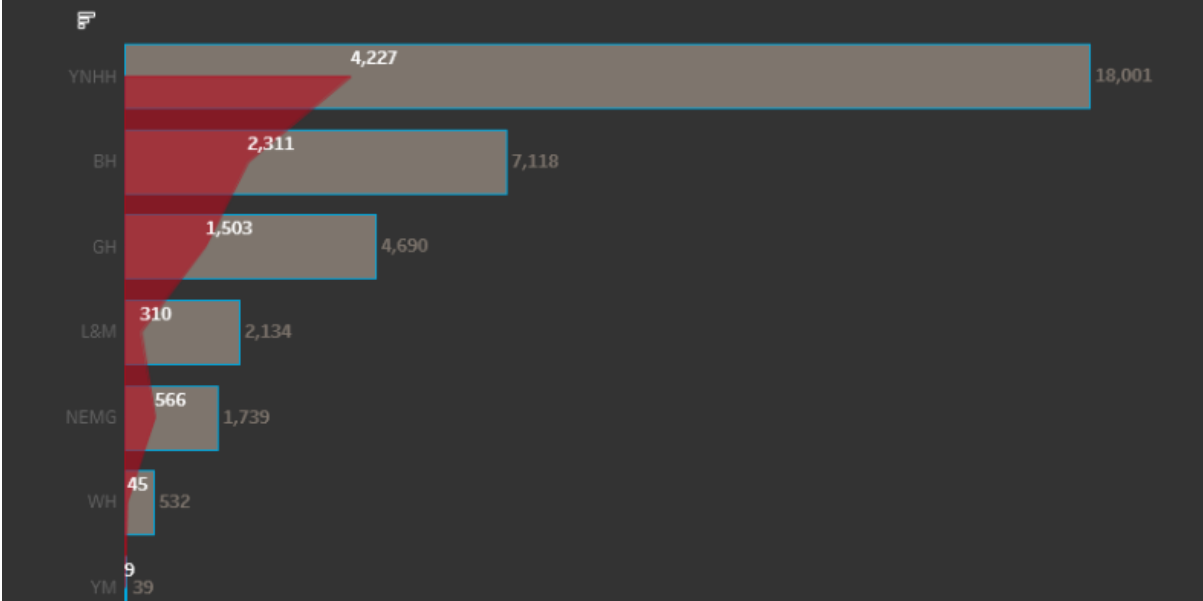
The Health System’s Corporate Pharmacy Services keeps a close watch on drugs in short supply and provide regular updates. There are no significant changes from 5/1. An update on all current shortages is attached.

Operational Snapshot (Source: JDAT)

Operational Data



YNHHS COVID TESTING



5/6/2020 9:00am

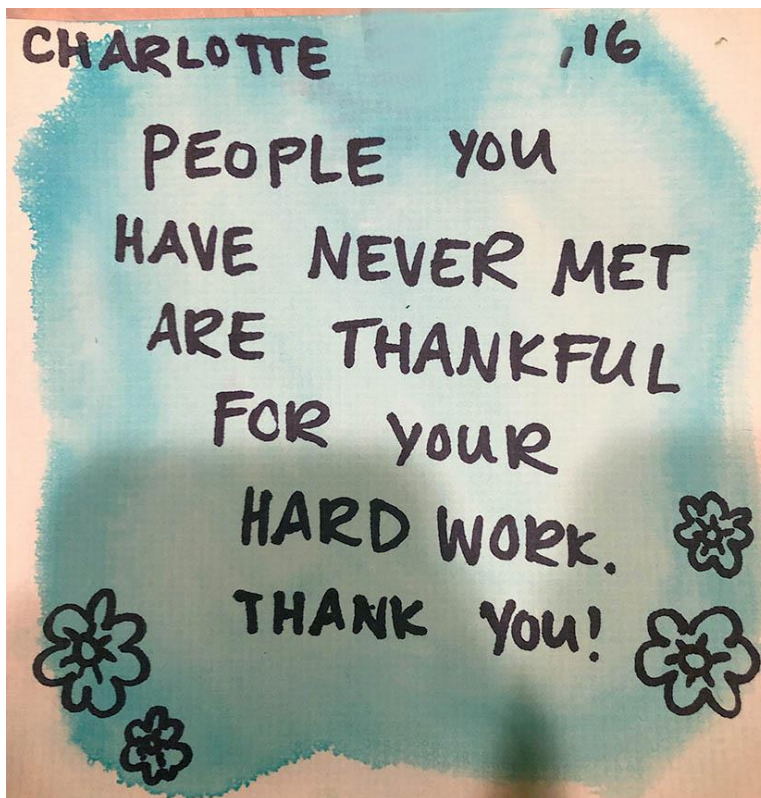
Yesterday

Since March 14

67

1,984

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



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 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](mailto:COVID.InfectionPrevention@ynhh.org)

Resources:

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

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