

System Incident Management Update

May 22, 2020

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

New Updates In RED

Letter from the Chief Clinical Officer

Dear Colleagues,

We continue to move forward in restarting the spectrum of clinical services across our hospitals and ambulatory facilities as the community spread and number of admissions of patients with COVID-19 decreases. As the State of Connecticut slowly starts to reopen, we will continue to push forward with testing and monitoring for any increases in the numbers of infections.

We will be starting to communicate specific updates as relates to the recovery period in close coordination with our delivery networks and Service Lines starting next week.

I hope you find time over Memorial Day weekend to take stock of the past few months, recharge, and connect with friends and family in a safe, socially-distant way. There is much work ahead, and your ongoing commitment, professionalism, and creativity will be essential for us to continue to empathetically and effectively serve our patients and communities in the weeks and months to come.

Warmly,



Thomas Balcezak, MD
Chief Clinical Officer
Yale New Haven Health

New Updates for May 22

Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) lab monitoring requirements

Some medications are subject to Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) requiring elements to assure safe use (ETASU). During the pandemic, completion of REMS-required lab tests or imaging may be difficult or put patients at risk. The recommendation is to abide by FDA and manufacturer-provided guidance, in addition to provider's best medical judgement, with respect to accommodations for REMS requirements (see attached).

Visitation restrictions for procedural, perioperative and radiology areas

YNHHS remains in a Tier 3 visitor restriction at all hospitals. Patients coming into procedural, perioperative or radiology areas are not allowed to be accompanied by a partner, unless an exception is made. Please see the attached document for exceptions and additional instructions in the case of an exception.

Ambulatory pharmacy treatment guide

The ambulatory pharmacy treatment guide provides some direction to clinicians when considering initiating or maintaining certain medications with COVID-19. Limited treatment data are available and clinical judgement is warranted. Please see the attached document.

Revised alternative drug shortage guide

The guideline for sedation, analgesia and paralysis has been updated to reflect the resolution of fentanyl infusion shortage. Please see the attached documents.

Updated YNHHS rehab services and dysphagia/NG/NJ tube placement guidelines

The YNHHS recommendations for inpatient PT/OT/SLP and Dysphagia & placement of NG/NJ tubes have been updated. Please see attached for recommendations.

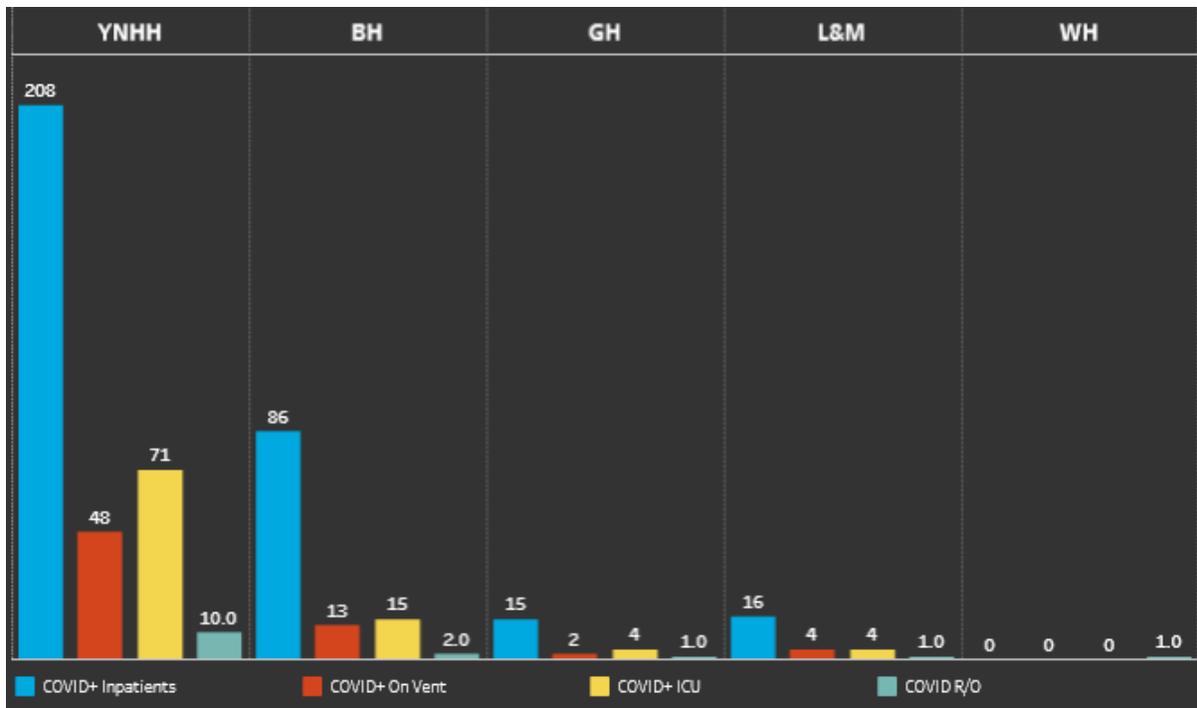
Updated YNHHS speech and language pathology guidelines

YNHHS Speech and Language Pathologists will increase their availability to provide inpatient consultation for patients that are COVID negative.

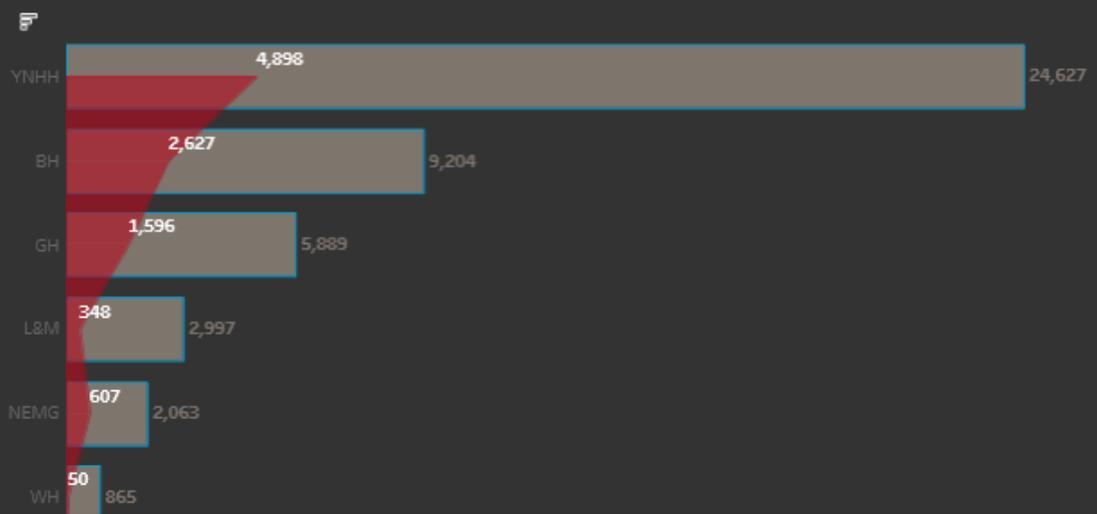
YNHHS pulse oximetry monitoring on discharge for COVID-19 patients

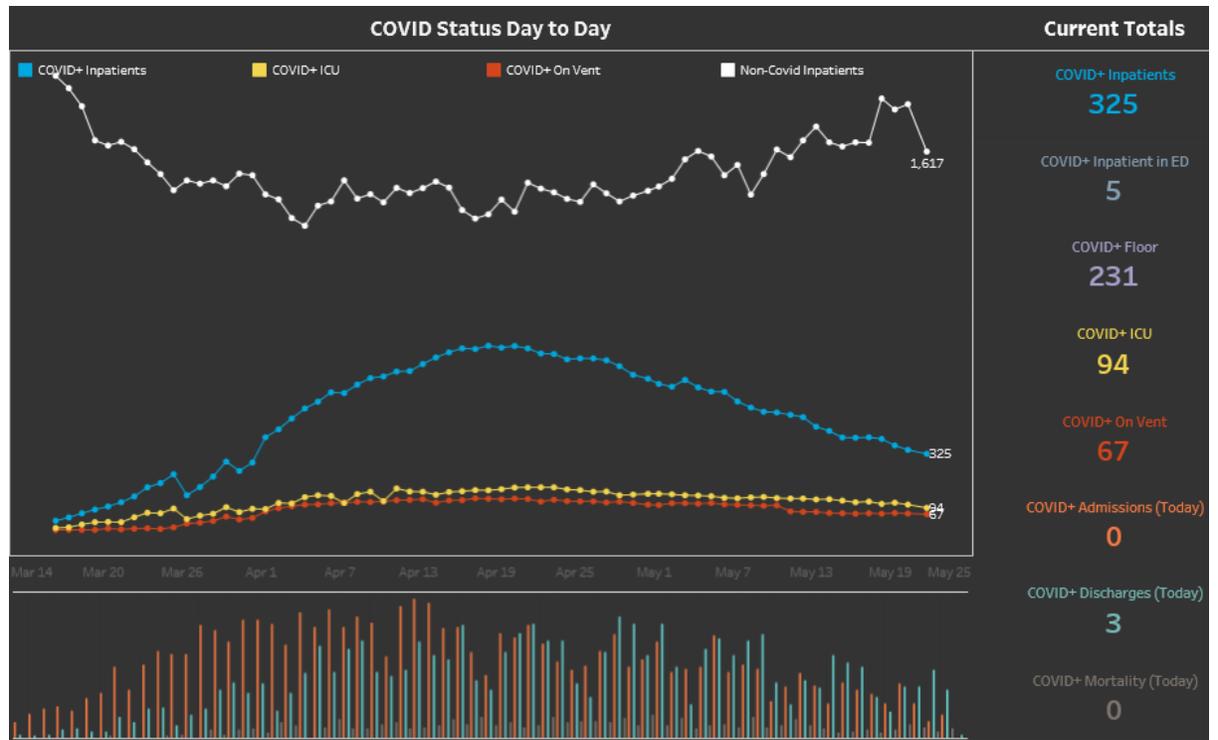
Starting on 5/27, pilot sites in YNHHS will provide pulse oximeters and home monitoring to identified high-risk patients that are being discharged home after hospitalization for COVID-19. Patients will be monitored at home for 7 days after discharge using the pulse oximeter and Epic MyChart. Talk to the care manager on your unit to see about availability!

Operational Snapshot (Source: JDAT)



YNHHS COVID TESTING





	YNHH	BH	GH	LMH	LMW
Inpatient PUI	10 (15)	2 (5)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
COVID Positive	208 (234)	86 (89)	15 (19)	16 (19)	0 (0)
COVID in ICU	71 (85)	15 (17)	4 (4)	4 (5)	0 (0)

5/22/2020 9:00am

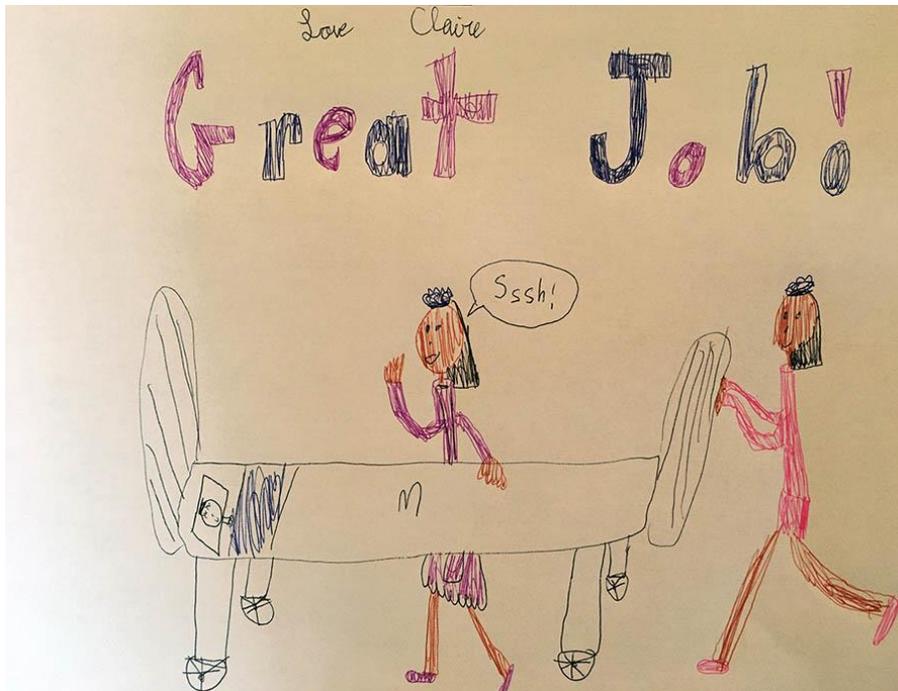
Yesterday

33

Since March 14

2,698

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

Resources:

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

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