

System Transformation Update

November 25, 2020

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

Message from the Chief Clinical Officer

Dear Colleagues,

I remain so thankful for our enormously talented and dedicated Medical Staff, who continue to inspire me by the countless examples of professionalism and care for our communities that happen every day. Despite the enormous clinical and operational challenges created by this pandemic, thanks to the efforts of you and our clinical teams, our patients continue to receive exceptional care on a daily basis.

Key points for this week are as follows:

- I am cautiously optimistic about a flattening of COVID-19 cases in our communities. Our internal COVID-19 test positivity has dropped to 8.7% from 10.9% last week. Wastewater data is showing a stabilization of concentrations of SARS-COV2 genetic material, but remain at a high plateau. That would suggest a stability in case positivity and hospital admissions in the next 7-10 days. Public behavior around Thanksgiving will have a large impact on future projections.
- Our testing enterprise is working to manage the significant demand, and turnaround time for symptomatic healthcare worker testing is now 48 hours. Symptomatic community testing turnaround is now 72 hours. We remain on track to expand capacity in the middle of December through the use of pooled testing.
- In alignment with the Governor's executive order regarding travel, individuals must have a COVID-19 test performed within 72 hours of return, and may return to work when negative. A subsequent test is no longer required. Tests may be self-scheduled at <https://ocucovidtesting.ynhhs.org/> up to a week in advance. Non-YNHHS COVID-19 test results can be sent to COVID19RTW@ynhh.org. See additional details [here](#).
- We have set up a multidisciplinary task force focused on COVID-19 vaccination logistics and administration. Our pharmacy team is taking the lead for registering all our clinical sites and practices with the State of Connecticut to be able to administer the vaccine. The group is working out logistics of managing all vaccine types, and especially the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine, which require ultra-cold temperatures for safe storage and transport. We are cautiously optimistic that the State will allocate the bulk of initial doses for healthcare workers, and the group is working to devise an equitable, transparent approach to vaccinate all our healthcare workers, including all Medical Staff. Additional detail will be communicated as the project moves forward.

In the face of these challenges, I am deeply thankful that the Health System is blessed with a talented, diverse, caring, and committed Medical Staff – you are critical to our ability to serve our communities during this hour of need, and provide the superlative care that is the hallmark of our institutions.

I wish you a safe, healthy, quiet and small Thanksgiving at home.

Warmly,

Thomas Balcezak, MD MPH
Chief Clinical Officer
Yale New Haven Health

Clinical Management Updates

COVID-19 Pharmacist Support

Dedicated 24/7 pharmacist support for help navigating COVID-19 treatment algorithm and requesting restricted treatments is now available. Clinicians may contact the COVID-19 pharmacist at 203-688-4218

COVID-19 Adult Treatment Algorithm

The revised treatment algorithm is available [here](#). Changes include guidance on dexamethasone and remdesivir given together under certain criteria (e.g., RA O2 saturation < 95% and requiring supplemental oxygen) and revised MICU evaluation criteria revised for use of supplemental oxygen and/or hemodynamic instability. See the updated algorithm [here](#).

Guidance on Baricitinib Use

The YNHHS Adult Treatment Team and Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee do not recommend the use of baricitinib in treatment of COVID-19 at this time. Please see the SBAR [here](#).

Clinical Operations Updates

Testing Center

Additional healthcare worker testing is now available with reserved appointments.

Updated testing turnaround times:

Population	Processing Lab	Turnaround Time
Tier 1A <ul style="list-style-type: none">InpatientEmergency Dept (Admits)Pre-Procedure	YNHHS Lab (Local Delivery Network)	Inpatient/ED Admits <ul style="list-style-type: none">2-12 Hours Pre-Procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 24 Hours
Tier 1B <ul style="list-style-type: none">Healthcare WorkersSymptomatic Community	YNHH Lab	Healthcare Workers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 48 Hours Symptomatic Community <ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to 72 Hours
Tier 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Skilled Nursing FacilitiesThird Party Contracts	YNHH Lab	Up to 72 hours
Tier 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Asymptomatic Community	YNHH Lab	Up to 72 Hours

Logistical Updates

Technology/Innovation

InTouch carts should be plugged in and powered on in assigned rooms. We be updating software and identifying carts not reporting on the network for investigation. Please report any damaged carts to Helpdesk (203-688-HELP) and report missing carts to telehealth@ynhh.org.

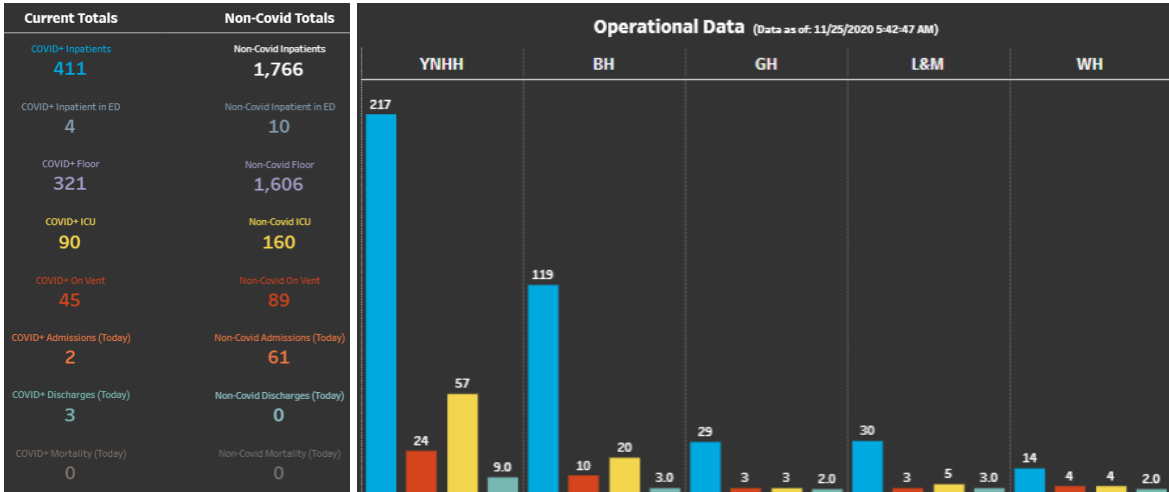
Ensure Patient/Family Communication iPads are ready for use. 1) Locate all iPads and chargers, 2) If iPads have not been in use, power on and fully charge, 3) Confirm connection to "HSC-Guest" Wi-Fi, 4) confirm Zoom and FaceTime function 5) Securely store devices, make staff aware of location, 6) Periodically check charge and readiness for use. **Damaged and missing** iPads and/or chargers should be reported to Helpdesk (203-688-HELP). To make a request for additional iPads please call the Service Desk or submit a request [here](#).

HR - Childcare

The CT Office of Early Childhood has childcare spaces available at no cost for hospital employees until December 30th with a possible extension beyond that date pending approval, For more information about the program, [click here](#).

Operational Snapshot

JDAT COVID-19 Dashboard



	YNHH	BH	GH	LMH	LMW
Inpatient PUI	9 (13)	3 (6)	2 (2)	3 (0)	2 (0)
COVID Positive	217 (183)	119 (91)	29 (18)	30 (23)	14 (6)
COVID in ICU	57 (27)	20 (13)	3 (0)	5 (5)	4 (1)

11/25/2020 (11/18/2020)

Past Week	Since March 14
257	5,119
<p>COVID-19 patients have been discharged back to their lives after being treated by our healthcare heroes.</p>	

Resources:

System Call Center # 203-688-1700

System Radiology Hotline # 475-246-9660

Attachments to this message can also be found on the COVID-19 Clinical Resources page [here](#).

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