

System Transformation Update

December 9, 2020

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

Message from the Chief Clinical Officer

Dear Colleagues,

We are currently in an interesting time where our region is experiencing a dangerously high level of viral spread, but the imminent approval of the COVID-19 vaccine and planned start to vaccination next week allows us to think about an end to this devastating pandemic. The percentage of positive tests in Connecticut has returned to a high level we have not seen since the Spring, and our hospital volume remains high, but stable. Our wastewater concentration data suggest that levels are remaining high, but we are thankfully not seeing a spike in concentration yet. Key updates are as follows:

Vaccine

- We plan to start vaccination using the Pfizer vaccine next week, with the Moderna vaccine becoming available shortly thereafter. We will be sending individual communications shortly to all employees and Medical Staff indicating if they have been identified as eligible healthcare workers, or if they are currently not eligible to use the vaccine based upon the parameters given to us by our state governments.
- We are very interested in your perspectives on the vaccine and likelihood to accept it. Along with the Yale School of Medicine, we have put together a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our vaccination program. Please click [here to access the survey](#).
- We anticipate a slow start to vaccines next week based upon supply, but the number of appointments will increase in later weeks.
- We are very excited to receive supplies of vaccine, which is safe and will eliminate the many serious health risks associated with getting COVID-19. We encourage all eligible to participate.
- Vaccination will occur through Epic MyChart. If you are not enrolled in MyChart, [please enroll here](#) and see the attached documentation to explain the enrollment process.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Our Supply Chain, Infection Prevention, and Occupational Health teams have released a brief [SBAR updating key modifications to our policy](#).
- Universal eye protection (goggles or face shields) are now required in all care areas.
- Respirators are now required if high flow nasal canula or non-invasive ventilation (CPAP or BiPAP) is being provided to any patient.
- Updated guidance on N95 Re-use and Extended use is [also available](#).

Please continue to remain vigilant at work and in your personal lives to minimize the risk of exposure by wearing masks, regularly washing hands, and minimizing social contact outside your immediate household. We must do absolutely everything we can to protect our patients,

our loved ones, and ourselves during the next few months before the effect of the vaccine takes hold on our society. As always, my deepest thanks for your commitment to caring for our patients, your professionalism, and your flexibility over this long year.

With deep appreciation,

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

Clinical Management Updates

Change in Recommendations for Non-invasive Ventilation or High Flow Oxygen

Due to increased community prevalence of COVID, additional precautions are being recommended for staff caring for patients undergoing BIPAP/CPAP or high flow nasal cannula treatment. Please see the recommendations [here](#).

Updated Use of Facial Coverings/Mask Policy

The Use of Facial Coverings Policy has been updated; changes include partnership with YM to align policy for all sites and an algorithm for patients unable/unwilling to wear a mask, with detail on mask exemptions. The full policy can be found [here](#).

Care Signature Pathways

New Care Signature Pathways for patients with known or suspected COVID-19 are now available in EPIC. These pathways synthesize evidence, YNHHS consensus, and clinical decision support at the point of care. A pathway may be suggested in your patient's storyboard based on chief complaint, diagnoses, or lab results.

New pathways include: COVID-19/PUI: Adult ED, COVID-19 Admission: Adult Inpatient, COVID-19 Management: Adult Inpatient.

For more information, see the attached guide to navigating the pathway or the Care Signature video found [here](#).

Bed Management

Substantial ED holds in multiple DN, with BH and YNHH particularly severe.

Clinical Operations Updates

Testing Center

Updated turnaround times for COVID-19 testing:

Population	Processing Lab	Turnaround Time
Tier 1A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inpatient Emergency 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 Workers 	YNHH Lab	Up to 48 hours
Tier 1C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptomatic Community 	YNHH Lab	Up to 72 hours
Tier 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skilled Nursing Facilities Third Party Contracts 	YNHH Lab	Up to 72 hours
Tier 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic Community 	YNHH Lab / External Reference Lab	Up to 96 Hours

Logistical Updates

HR – Labor Pool

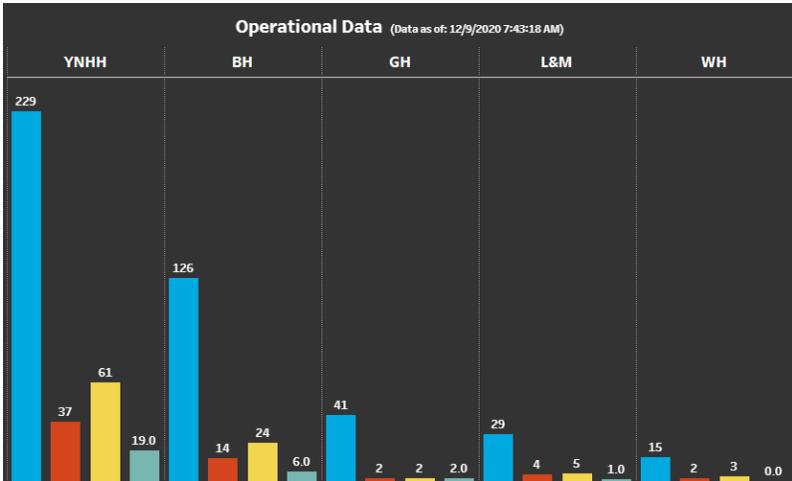
System resources concentrated at BH and YNHH due to high acuity and IP volume.

High volume of requests from outside IP nursing, including CSC, Call Centers and upcoming vaccine deployment.

Operational Snapshot

JDAT COVID-19 Dashboard

Current Totals	Non-Covid Totals
COVID+ Inpatients 441	Non-Covid Inpatients 1,762
COVID+ Inpatient in ED 5	Non-Covid Inpatient in ED 13
COVID+ Floor 345	Non-Covid Floor 1,585
COVID+ ICU 96	Non-Covid ICU 177
COVID+ On Vent 58	Non-Covid On Vent 89
COVID+ Admissions (Today) 4	Non-Covid Admissions (Today) 92
COVID+ Discharges (Today) 2	Non-Covid Discharges (Today) 2
COVID+ Mortality (Today) 1	Non-Covid Mortality (Today) 2
COVID+ Mortality (Yesterday) 8	Non-Covid Mortality (Yesterday) 2



	YNHH	BH	GH	LMH	LMW
Inpatient PUI	19 (14)	6 (1)	2 (3)	1 (0)	0 (1)
COVID Positive	229 (218)	126 (139)	41 (34)	29 (40)	15 (15)
COVID in ICU	61 (50)	24 (19)	2 (3)	5 (7)	3 (4)

12/9/2020 (12/2/2020)

Past Week

416

Since March 14

5,840

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

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](#).