

System Transformation Update

December 16, 2020

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

Message from the Chief Clinical Officer

Dear Colleagues,

While case volumes continue to skyrocket elsewhere, we thankfully seem to have reached a steady state in the number of our hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Positive COVID-19 tests have also decreased slightly and our wastewater predictive modeling seems to be holding stable. That said, the number of admitted patients with COVID-19 does remain high, and we continue to provide essential non-COVID-19 care in our hospitals and ambulatory facilities.

The bright spot for the week remains the vaccine. Key updates:

- Initial invitations to schedule vaccination went out early Tuesday morning, and after our initial vaccinations yesterday, we started our formal large-scale vaccination clinics this morning. 442 people were vaccinated today.
- Due to the storm tomorrow, we are reducing vaccination hours to go from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. We will be contacting individuals who have already scheduled through MyChart regarding the scheduling change.
- We will be sending out another wave of scheduling invitations early tomorrow morning in advance of receiving additional vaccine shipments over the weekend and into next week.
- We are rapidly scaling up our vaccination staffing and clinics to vaccinate nearly 10,000 people next week.
- Invitations to schedule vaccination go through MyChart – please make sure you are checking whichever email address you used to enroll in MyChart – in many cases that may be your personal email address.
- Please remind your colleagues to check their email to watch for the invitations to schedule – the quicker we vaccinate people, the more vaccine doses we will receive from the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island.
- Westerly Hospital will receive its vaccine allocation tomorrow, and will start its vaccine clinics on Friday morning. We will be sending out the initial invitations to schedule for Westerly tomorrow morning.
- Our Vaccination Task Force is preparing to review all guidance around the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which we expect will be approved for use tomorrow. We hope to start receiving the Moderna shipments to complement our Pfizer vaccine next week.

Despite the ongoing challenges we face, the beginning of our vaccination program is a welcome sign that we are nearing the end of our long marathon of supporting our communities through this historic and devastating pandemic. We are immensely fortunate to be the first recipients of these lifesaving vaccines, and I urge you to take advantage of this honor and to get vaccinated at your earliest convenience.

As always, my deepest thanks and best wishes to you as you continue to demonstrate resolve, empathy, and professionalism in continuing to provide superlative care for our patients and communities.

Warmly,

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

Clinical Management Updates

Updated Adult Treatment Algorithm

Updates include guidance on higher dose/prolonged duration of steroids, updated recommendations for lab tests and updated clinical trial information. The new algorithm can be found [here](#).

Updated Adult Ambulatory Treatment Guidelines

Updates include information on the use of monoclonal antibodies for COVID-19 in non-hospitalized patients as well as listed available clinical trials for outpatients. These guidelines are available [here](#).

COVID Return to Work/School Template

We have drafted a sample letter for providers who need guidance on returning people to work after a positive COVID test. It is available [here](#) and in the 'letters' section of Epic and is a smart text dot phrase (.covid19rtw).

YNHHS Glycemic Management Recommendations for COVID Inpatients

Guidance and resources for inpatient glycemic management for COVID patients is now available [here](#).

How Stressed Are You? Self Assessment Survey

The COVID Healthcare Workers Support Task Force invites you to take this [Self-Assessment Survey](#), designed to help you assess your stress level and to provide information on resources. The survey is completely anonymous, and no personal information will be collected and can be taken as often as you like.

Clinical Operations Updates

COVID-19 Vaccination

Email communications to schedule vaccine appointments are being directed to addresses connected to employee's MyChart, which may include personal accounts. Please account for this change when looking to schedule a vaccine. Additionally, please be punctual for appointments.

Invitations for Bridgeport Hospital were sent out with Mill Hill 1 as the location – please note this has **changed to Medical Education Classroom**.

Infection Prevention

Additional clarification of the PPE policy was sent out 12/9 including eye protection, expansion of fit tested respirator users as well as a change in the elastomeric distribution to individuals with a cleaning protocol. These can be found [here](#).

Guidance for home quarantine for staff living with a COVID + household member has been modified to align with new CDC guidance.

Testing Center

The new testing site in Wallingford is now live. To make an appointment please visit: <https://covidtesting2.ynhhs.org/scheduling>

Due to staffing and supply chain constraints, some asymptomatic community tests may be sent to external reference labs with extended turnaround time.

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 1B <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	Up to 96 Hours

Logistical Updates

Pharmacy

The monoclonal antibody task force has been working to ensure outpatients can be treated at each of our DNs across the system.

- Therapy started at YNHH and GH with 10 patients treated thus far
- BH and WH infusion locations to begin scheduling this week with L&M shortly after.
- WH approved to administer in SNFs and treated 1 nursing home patient last week.
- We continue to receive weekly allocations of bamlanivimab and casirivimab/imdevimab from the state.

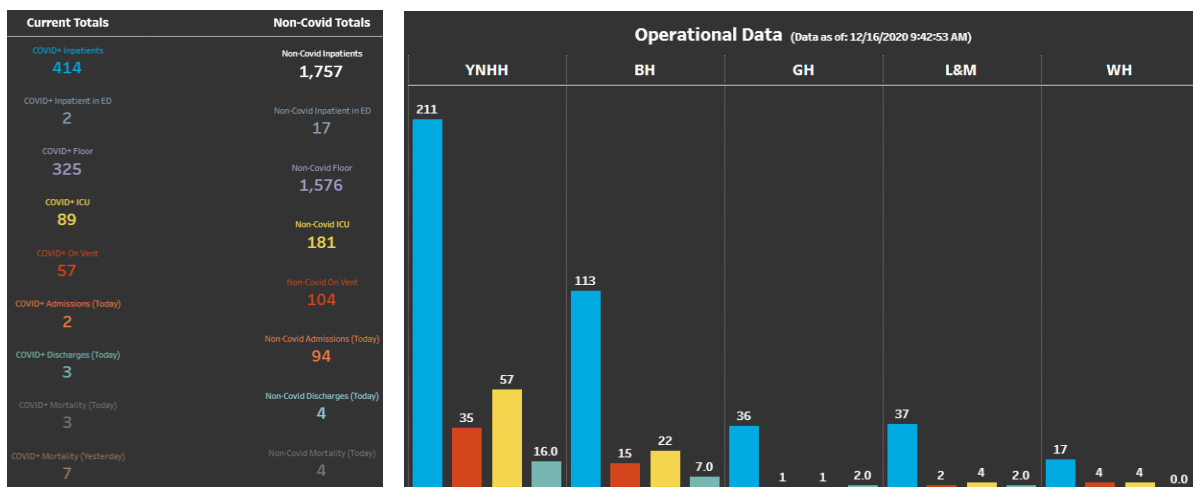
Physicians can enter a referral via Epic with more information available in “COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody References”.

HR – Labor Pool

Demand has plateaued for ICT and RT staffing.

Operational Snapshot

JDAT COVID-19 Dashboard



	YNHH	BH	GH	LMH	LMW
Inpatient PUI	16 (19)	7 (6)	2 (2)	2 (1)	0 (0)
COVID Positive	211 (229)	113 (126)	35 (41)	37 (29)	17 (15)
COVID in ICU	57 (61)	22 (24)	1 (2)	4 (5)	4 (3)

12/16/2020 (12/9/2020)

Past Week
Since March 14

439

6,202

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](#).