

COVID-19 Update: March 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today's COVID-19 Update highlights an important inpatient transition, as well as an opportunity to help maintain our blood product supply during this difficult time:

Inpatient Move to SRC

As we continue to address both the needs of our patients at Smilow and the need of our Health System to care for patients with COVID-19, we are moving our patients off of the top three inpatient floors of Smilow Cancer Hospital. These three floors have negative pressure design and will further accommodate COVID-19 patients. NP15 will serve as a COVID-19 ICU, as needed.

- NP15, NP14, and NP12 have activated transition plans, under the direction of Kevin Billingsley, Kerin Adelson, and Tracy Carafeno.
- The Verdi Pavilion on Saint Raphael Campus (SRC) has allocated three units to prepare for the arrival of our Smilow patients, nurses, staff, and caregivers. Our leadership team, along with nursing, pharmacy, social work, IT, facilities, transportation, telecom, security, parking, and countless others are working tirelessly to make this transition as smooth as possible for our patients.
- NP15 was successfully vacated yesterday and our surgical patients were transferred to other units within the York Street Campus. The transfer of patients by ambulance from NP12 and NP14 began at noon today. All impacted patients and their families have been notified and will have continuity of care, with the same physician and nursing teams moving with them from Smilow to SRC.
- A plan is currently under development to keep post-operative patients on the York Street Campus until discharge. Non post-op patient admissions to surgical services will be admitted to SRC.
- Smilow patients will remain on NP11, which provides positive pressure rooms for our patients and a protected environment. A dedicated elevator for staff to enter NP11 will be created and separated from elevators traveling to the other NP floors.

Transfusion Planning

The Smilow COVID Response Team, in collaboration with our Blood Bank leadership, has proactively developed a stepwise strategy to respond to any potential shortage of blood products.

- Our priority is always the safety of our patients. Recommendations have been made for some limitations in prophylactic transfusions for hematology and oncology patients to avoid any severe shortage. The Blood Bank and our hematology teams are fully available to help and guide providers through any specific challenging situation.
- Blood shortages continue in Connecticut and throughout our country. Donating blood is one way to help our patients through this difficult time. [Learn more, and find a blood donation site near you.](#)

Please continue to send your questions to us at canceranswers@yale.edu and plan to join us during our weekly virtual [Town Hall](#) tomorrow at 5PM.

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