

COVID-19 Update: March 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today's COVID-19 Update includes three key messages of importance:

Smilow Outpatient Visitor Policy as of March 17

We understand that our patients rely on an extended support system from their family and friends during their appointments and scheduled treatment visits.

- Each patient can bring one healthy visitor with them to ambulatory appointments for support.
- Each visitor will be proactively screened, along with our patients, prior to arrival and again at the clinic entrance to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Additional Yale New Haven Health visitation policies can be found [online](#).

Smilow Telehealth

To reduce the number of outpatient visits over the immediate future, we have assembled a work group led by two physician leaders, Dr. Sarah Mougalian and Dr. Anne Chiang, along with Maureen Major Campos and Monica Fradkin, to help implement Telehealth video visits, when appropriate. In addition, each Care Center has been asked to identify a physician lead to help triage appointments to Telehealth.

- Online instructions for Telehealth can be shared with patients by downloading our [Telehealth Rack Card](#) and [Video Visit Quick Guide](#) from our website at www.yalecancercenter.org/telehealth.

Surgical Procedures

Our Response Team has been tasked with inpatient planning, and reducing our surgical inpatient volume.

- We requested a plan from each of our Disease Centers with significant surgical components to outline current surgical patient scheduling and provide

recommendations to the Response Team to ensure continued cancer care of these patients in the event that surgery is deferred. Thank you to our surgical and program leadership for your quick response and assistance.

- Our multidisciplinary disease teams have provided guidelines for the use of non-surgical cancer treatments to allow for safe postponement of oncologic resection in cases in which this is deemed appropriate. Your recommendations will allow us to make safe decisions on deferred care and will provide the resources needed to care for the influx of patients with COVID-19 symptoms throughout our health system.
- Our Response Team is also considering additional options to ensure we are providing the safest care for our inpatients in Smilow Cancer Hospital.

As always, if you have questions, please reach out to us at canceranswers@yale.edu and plan to join us during our weekly virtual [Town Hall](#) this Thursday at 5PM.

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH

Director, Yale Cancer Center
Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital

Lori C. Pickens, MHA

Senior Vice President and Executive Director
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Kevin G. Billingsley, MD

Chief Medical Officer
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC

Vice President for Patient Services
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale Cancer Center | www.yalecancercenter.org

STAY CONNECTED

