

## COVID-19 Update: April 27, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### Care for COVID+ Patients or from Hot Zones

The escalating burden of COVID-19 is increasing the number of patients with confirmed COVID-19, or at high-risk for COVID positivity, who will need to receive appropriate care for their hematologic or oncologic diagnosis.

- Asymptomatic, COVID-negative, patients from Extended Care Facilities, Group Homes, Correctional Facilities, and geographic high-risk areas will be scheduled for an initial Telehealth visit, unless delay in treatment would place the patient in jeopardy. If so, an office visit will be scheduled, with a confirmed COVID-negative test within 24 hours of the visit. All staff should wear PPE for presumed infected patients, despite the negative test result.
- Patients with a confirmed COVID+ illness:
  - Patients should not receive or resume systemic therapy for a malignancy until completion of convalescence for COVID-19.
  - In the rare scenario that a patient must receive anti-cancer therapy while still COVID+, agreement between two physicians is required (follow existing algorithm for non-standard chemotherapy – primary attending discussion with Kerin Adelson, MD, Smilow Deputy Chief Medical Officer, or Anne Chiang, MD, Smilow Chief Network Officer)
  - Complete SBAR and detailed recommendations are available for review [online](#).

### Isolation Gowns

The supply of isolation gowns remains a concern impacting healthcare providers globally. The YNHHS secured an additional 185,000 gowns last week, which translates to an additional one-week supply.

- The YNHHS is collaborating with an external partner to reprocess isolation gowns to fully decontaminate the gowns, while maintaining their protective properties.
- Please remove gowns carefully and save for reprocessing. When removing gowns, please do not pop the ties or scrunch them into a tight ball.

- Additional collection containers have been placed in clinical areas. Please place gowns in Container #3. Container #1 is for N95 respirators; Container #2 is for Face Shields and Goggles.

## Smilow Stars

**Patricia Poniros, RN**, recognizes that a diagnosis of cancer is not the only hardship many of our patients are experiencing, and now during the current COVID-19 pandemic many of them are facing more serious hardships. Given her concerns for her patients, Patricia immediately reached out and began collecting food donations to give to patients in need. **Allison Vallance, RN**, quickly joined her efforts and together they have collected food to provide to patients from their neighbors, friends, staff, and through outreach to local restaurants. Each week, they package bags of food for identified patients to take home with them following appointments at our Trumbull Care Center or for pick up at our Fairfield location. In addition, they have coordinated with local restaurants to donate and deliver fresh, hot meals directly to specific patient's homes, many of whom have reached out to say that they have been homebound and have not had a hot meal in weeks. Thank you for going above and beyond for our patients!



## Upcoming Events

Please join us for **Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds** tomorrow, April 28, at 12:00pm to hear presentations from **Brinda Emu, MD**, and **Nadya Dimitrova, PhD**. [Zoom Link](#). [More Information](#).

**Yale New Haven Health** will host a **Virtual Town Hall** tomorrow evening at 8:15pm to provide an update on the Health System's response to the coronavirus pandemic for Yale New Haven Health Employees and Medical Staff. [Zoom Link](#).

Best regards,

**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

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