

COVID-19 Update: April 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

iPads for Inpatients

Thanks to the generous support of Lajos Pusztai, MD, DPhil, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology), and through additional resources provided by Yale New Haven Health, our inpatient units now have iPads with the Zoom application available for patients to connect with their friends and families.

- When in use, an iPad should be treated just like an in room visitor. Please respect patient confidentiality & patient care while video-conferencing is in use.
- Please use the hospital approved disinfecting wipes to thoroughly wipe down the entire iPad case after each use. The iPad should remain in the case.
- Contact the ITS Service Desk (203-688-4357) with any technical issues.

Hand Sanitizer

Due to critical national shortages of hand sanitizer, YNHHS Pharmacy is preparing and distributing hand sanitizer following FDA and WHO guidance.

- Please note that the new formula is not foamy. The sanitizer is dispensed in 4oz bottles and distributed throughout the Health System.
- Do not dispose of these bottles as they are in low supply. Once the individual hand sanitizer bottle is empty, please hold onto them until further notice.
- Planning is in place to have hand sanitizer refill stations that can be utilized to refill both wall dispensers and individual bottles.

PPE Update

To improve the efficiency of care and conserve PPE, while ensuring the safety of our staff and patients, updated guidance has been issued.

- Please minimize the number of people entering the room to essential personnel only and support clustering of care.

- Gowns may be worn when moving from a COVID+ patient to another COVID+ patient and when moving from a PUI to a COVID+ patient, but NOT from a COVID+ patient to a PUI.
- Gowns are to be worn when direct patient care is provided or contact with the environment (when brushing up against items in the room is unavoidable).
- Gowns are not required to be worn into the room if direct patient care is not being provided and physical contact with objects in the environment is avoidable.
- The Health System's full PPE policies are available for review [online](#).

Water Coolers and Coffee Machines

The continued use of water coolers and Keurig coffee machines in patient and staff areas is cause for concern with potential spread of COVID-19.

- Effective immediately, the use of all water coolers should be stopped. All units will order and make available disposable water bottles for patients and staff.
- Staff may bring a full reusable water bottle from home but can no longer refill reusable water bottles from any water coolers within the Health System.
- All K-cups will be removed from areas where patients can access them and staff will obtain coffee for patients. Staff can continue use of the Keurig coffee machines provided they only use disposable cups and that each cup is disposed of after use.

Smilow Star

Kathleen Moseman, RN, BSN, MHA, Patient Services Manager at Smilow Cancer Hospital, has been a true star during our transition of patient care from NP 4 and NP 8 to North Haven over the last week. Without hesitation, Kathleen identified new work flows to ensure patient care was uninterrupted, and was instrumental in moving her patient support teams to the new location. Kathleen's steadfast leadership and dedicated efforts contributed to our successful first week in North Haven. Thank you for your commitment to our team, Kathleen!



Upcoming Events

- Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds: Tuesday, April 21 – Harlan Krumholz, MD, SM, presents *The Next Era of Knowledge Generation: Innovation Leaps to Better, Faster, Cheaper*

Best regards,

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH

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