

COVID-19 Update: April 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

PPE Update

The CDC and State of Connecticut now recommend everyone use cloth face masks in public. YNHHS continues to resource PPE to ensure the safety of all of our clinicians and staff. We are especially grateful to Dr. Mehra Golshan who recently secured and donated 40,000 surgical masks to YNHHS to help support our needs. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Golshan to campus in his new role as Deputy CMO for Surgical Services at Smilow Cancer Hospital in June.

- All clinicians and staff will wear face masks throughout our healthcare facilities.
- Ambulatory patients and visitors will be instructed to wear face masks in patient care facilities. To the extent possible, patients and visitors are encouraged to bring and wear their own face masks. If they arrive without one, a face mask will be provided.
- Because of variations in supply, the YNHHS inventory of PPE is now more diverse than usual. Different face masks, protective clothing, N95 respirators, and equivalents may be delivered to your care delivery areas.
- In order to help providers determine which protective equipment should be used, please refer to the ["Order of Use"](#) description for face masks, respirators, and protective clothing.

COVID-related Research

Yale Cancer Center members, **Eric Meffre, PhD**, and **Aaron Ring, MD, PhD**, are collaborating to study the development of immune responses targeting SARS-CoV-2.

- Their project hypothesis is that anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody responses generate neutralizing protective antibodies in most patients, but that S1 spike protein-reactive antibodies may cross-react with self-antigens expressed on lung epithelial cells in patients severely affected by the virus. This is based on previously documented SARS-CoV research.
- Their current research will analyze the two mechanisms of immune response to SARS-CoV-2: protective antiviral immunity versus harmful immunopathology.

- The overall goal of their project is to identify protective antibodies, and to subsequently develop potential therapeutic agents against the virus.

Town Hall

Please join us for our [Town Hall](#) meeting tomorrow evening at 5pm via [Zoom](#) to hear the latest information on our response to COVID-19 at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and for an opportunity to ask your [questions](#). Our agenda will include the following:

Preparing for the Next Phase of our COVID-19 Response

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH, and Lori C. Pickens, MHA

Updates from Smilow Cancer Hospital

Kevin G. Billingsley, MD and Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC

Guidelines for Ambulatory Management for COVID+ or High-Risk Patients at Smilow

Jeremy Kortmansky, MD and Lisa Shomsky, MBA, BSN, CNML

The Oncology Pharmacy Response to COVID-19

Howard Cohen, RPh, Nancy Beaulieu, RPh, and Osama Abdelghany, PharmD, BCOP

The Evolving Landscape of COVID-19 Testing for Patients and Healthcare Workers

David Peaper, MD, PhD, and Lisa Barbarotta, MSN, APRN-BC-AOCNS

Smilow Star

Kelsey Reutenauer, RN, is one of our infusion nurses who transitioned care from NP 8 to provide treatment to our patients at the North Haven Care Center. Kelsey quickly realized that the infusion transition would need leadership and stepped up to be charge nurse in the area, adapting to the new environment and providing a central point of contact for her colleagues and our physicians. Arriving in advance to prepare for day one in the new space, Kelsey quickly intervened to help with onsite workflow changes to support patient care and recommended two colleagues to support the “catch up” work secondary to patient waits. Her quick thinking and early action provided our patients the service and support they are accustomed to and Kelsey did this with a smile and calm supportive nature. Thank you, Kelsey!



Best regards,

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH

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Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital

Lori C. Pickens, MHA

Senior Vice President and Executive Director
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Kevin G. Billingsley, MD

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