

Smilow Update: January 21, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

COVID Vaccine

To date, 26,417 YNHHS employees have been vaccinated, and over 72% of Smilow staff have been vaccinated. Thank you for taking the time to schedule your appointments, and to protect our patients, your families, and one another. Please share your experience with your colleagues, and encourage others to sign up soon.

- If you have not yet scheduled your vaccination, please login to MyChart to do so. A guide to navigate MyChart is available [online](#). The last appointment for first dose administration will be Tuesday, January 26. After that, all first dose appointments for employees and medical staff will be routed to YNHHS's mass vaccination sites. Second dose appointments will continue to be held onsite at our hospitals.
- Yale New Haven Health has started scheduling vaccinations for people 75+ in phase 1b through an online portal: <https://www.ynhhs.org/patient-care/covid-19/vaccine/get-your-covid-vaccine.aspx>
- Smilow Cancer Hospital will host a [Patient and Family Forum](#) next Thursday, January 28 at 7pm focused on the vaccine and to answer our patients' questions. Please encourage your patients to [register](#) and join us if you are available.
- All patients with active cancer undergoing active treatment, except those post-stem cell/bone marrow transplant or CAR-T treatment, are highly encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they are eligible, with recommendation from their treating hematologist/oncologist about the timing of the vaccination. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) consensus guidelines are expected this week to provide additional guidance, and will be distributed when available.
- Faculty and university staff with healthcare credentials interested in volunteering to staff vaccination clinics should email vaccineclinics@ynhh.org. YNHHS staff should discuss availability with their managers so hours can be documented through the labor pool.

COVID Testing

The YNHHS Testing Stewardship Committee recently shared updated Ambulatory Testing Principles for both Asymptomatic and Symptomatic patients. Please review.

For employees, questions regarding COVID-19 exposure, testing, quarantine, and return to work will now be handled through 844-543-2147, with selection of Option 2. This line

will continue to support employees and the Medical Staff, including the Yale Medicine community.

Transfers to Smilow Units

For intrahospital transfers to NP11, NP12, or SLA5, a SARS-CoV-2 PCR test panel (“Inpatient COVID-19 Test for Clearance or Disposition WITHOUT Symptoms”, order #390539) is needed prior to transfer. The patient will be transferred with confirmation of negative test and a Smilow bed will be assigned within 24 hours. This recommendation does not change current Y ACCESS, OR, or PACU procedures, or change pre-procedural requirements. For patients with prior documented SARS-CoV-2 infection, refer to the YNHHS Guidelines for Discontinuation of COVID-19 Isolation and Retesting.

Human SARS-CoV-2 Serology Standard Available

The National Cancer Institute is pleased to announce that the Human SARS-CoV-2 Serology Standard, a reagent intended to harmonize assays that measure anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, is now available. The standard enables comparisons between different SARS-CoV-2 serology studies, including studies evaluating the immune response to different COVID-19 candidate vaccines.

Researchers may request the Human SARS-CoV-2 Serology Standard by completing the [request form available](#) on the FNL website and submitting it to SSNCCbiospecimens@nih.gov.

Smilow Town Hall

We invite you to please [Save the Date](#) for our next Smilow Cancer Hospital/Yale Cancer Center Town Hall meeting on Thursday, February 4 at 5:00pm. Join us via [Zoom](#) to hear an update from Smilow Cancer Hospital leadership and for an opportunity to ask questions. You can also email questions in advance of the meeting.

Criteria Ambulatory COVID-19 Treatment

Based on the increased availability of bamlanivimab and casirivimab/imdesivimab, the YNHHS criteria for treatment have been revised as follows. To refer a patient in Epic for treatment, enter an Ambulatory referral for “COVID Antibody Infusion Therapy.”

Patient must be 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40kg and have a documented positive result of a direct SARS CoV-2 viral test within the last 7 days AND who meet the following clinical criteria listed below:

- Patients > 65 years of age
- Patient less than 65 years of age AND have one of the following co-morbidities:
 - Diabetes mellitus
 - BMI > 40 kg/m²
 - Chronic Kidney Disease, Stage III or higher or receiving dialysis
 - Congestive Heart Failure NYHA Class III or higher
 - Severe pulmonary disease defined as one of the following:
 - COPD with continuous home oxygen, pulmonary hypertension/pulmonary fibrosis, or cystic fibrosis
- Cirrhosis—Child Class B or C
- Immunosuppressed status due to an underlying immunocompromising condition or use of immunosuppressive therapy
- Sickle cell disease
- Parkinson’s disease
- Patient aged 12-17 with one of the following:

- Congenital or acquired heart disease
- Neurodevelopmental disorders
- Medical-related technological dependence, for example, tracheostomy, gastrostomy, or positive pressure ventilation (not related to COVID-19)
- Chronic respiratory disease excluding asthma

Exclusion Criteria:

Bamlanivimab and casirivimab/imdesivimab are not authorized for use in the following patients:

Hospitalized due to COVID-19

Monoclonal antibodies, such as bamlanivimab or casirivimab/imdesivimab, may be associated with worse clinical outcomes when administered to hospitalized patients with COVID-19 requiring high flow oxygen or mechanical ventilation.

OR

Patients who require oxygen therapy due to COVID-19 or who require an increase in baseline oxygen flow rate due to COVID-19 in those on chronic oxygen therapy due to underlying non-COVID-19 related comorbidity.

Crush COVID!



Please share your vaccination photo with us for inclusion in future Smilow Updates!

Best regards,

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