

COVID-19 Update: April 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### COVID-19 Testing & Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic

Our access to testing for our patients continues to improve, and provide us with quicker turnaround for results to help in the care of our delicate patient population.

- **Ambulatory Testing:** All providers at our Care Centers have access to order COVID-19 testing through EPIC for patients they determine are highly suspicious for COVID-19 or have already developed symptoms. Once the order has been placed through EPIC, patients will be contacted directly and scheduled at one of the six YNHHS testing locations. Results will be available within two days. Please select the ambulatory order for “**SARS CoV-2 COVID 19 PCR Reference Lab Order**” when ordering through EPIC.
- **Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic:** Patients seen in the Rapid Evaluation Clinic will have COVID-19 testing performed using either the Rapid Test (1-2 hour turn around), or the CDC-based test (4-6 hour turn around), depending on the clinical situation. Please call (203) 200-1919 to discuss a referral. The criteria for referral to our new clinic on NP 1, include the following:
  - Fever in high-risk populations (who would otherwise require admission regardless of COVID-19 status)
  - Patients with concerning respiratory symptoms who do not meet severe criteria
  - Patients who have screened positive and who are scheduled for treatment that cannot be safely delayed

### Telehealth

We continue to transition many of our follow-up appointments to Telehealth videos and phone calls with our patients and have seen a dramatic growth in use, with a **343% increase** in use between March 15 and March 29.

- We saw 364 patients using Telehealth and phone calls during the week ending March 15; 1,268 during the week ending March 22; and 1614 during the week ending March 29.

- **Patient information**, including MyChart access, Telehealth Quick Guides, and video tutorials, are available online at [www.yalecancercenter.org/telehealth](http://www.yalecancercenter.org/telehealth)
- **Telehealth training sessions** for providers are available through Yale Medicine each Wednesday at Noon and Friday at 7:30 am (No session April 10) via [Zoom](#).

### Key Upcoming Events

**Representative Rosa DeLauro** will join us for our weekly **Smilow Town Hall** tomorrow at 5pm to offer her support and to share an update highlighting the federal response to COVID-19. Please plan to join us to hear from Rep. DeLauro, as well as to learn the latest information from Smilow leadership. We welcome your questions in advance at [canceranswers@yale.edu](mailto:canceranswers@yale.edu).

- [April 9: Smilow Town Hall; 5pm](#)
- [April 13: Schwartz Rounds; Noon](#)
- [April 15: Patient and Family Forum; 7pm](#)

Best regards,

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Physician-in-Chief, Smilow Cancer Hospital

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