

COVID-19 Update: April 3, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic

Today, we proudly launched a new clinic to allow quick evaluation and testing of Smilow patients for symptoms of COVID-19, facilitating triage to the most appropriate location of care.

- Smilow Cancer Hospital, NP1, Suite A; 7am – 7pm daily
- Referral by patient's care team, after assessment by phone or in person: **203-200-1919**
- Criteria for referral: 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

Clinical Trials

As you know, the focus of health system resources on the ongoing COVID epidemic have led to limitations and disruptions in our clinical research program. We share a common vision that clinical trial participation offers the best therapeutic option for our patients, and our investigators and Clinical Trials Office (CTO) staff have worked tirelessly to support our existing and new trial participants.

- As disruptions to clinical services continue, **we have made the decision to suspend all non-COVID related YCC clinical trial enrollment at this time.** We will reevaluate our capabilities in approximately 2 weeks and look forward to resuming enrollment when we are confident that we are able to recruit and manage patients effectively and in compliance.
- We will continue to support our existing trial patients. Our CTO team has done a tremendous job in the past few weeks of transitioning to a remote work model, supporting more than 150 research visits last week alone.

- While enrollment is suspended, we will not maintain an active Clinical Research Support Laboratory.

Patient and Family Forum

Earlier this week, we hosted a public [Patient and Family Forum](#) to share updates on the status of COVID-19 and to answer questions from our community. Over 500 people joined the live event, and we continue to have viewers on our website and through social media. We look forward to scheduling more opportunities to update our community soon.

Town Hall

We want to thank Laurie Santos, PhD, Professor of Psychology, for joining us at our weekly [Town Hall](#) meeting last evening. Laurie's insight and reassuring messages of self-care, self-compassion, and patience were inspiring. Please take the time to watch her presentation if you were not able to join us, and check out the resources she suggested: [The Happiness Lab](#) and [Ten Percent Happier](#).

Blood Drives

Our blood product shortage continues. The YNHH blood bank is sponsoring blood drives on the following Wednesdays: April 8, April 15, April 22. To book an appointment to donate, visit the [Red Cross website](#) and enter the Sponsor Code YaleNHHosp; appointments can also be made by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Please donate if you can.

Smilow Stars

The urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic created an unparalleled opportunity for healthcare providers and staff at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Care Centers to do what they do best: provide Smilow care with the highest levels of compassion and clinical excellence. Beginning today, we will highlight a few outstanding care providers that are working selflessly every day. These heroes are representatives for the many others who serve our patients with commitment and bravery every day.

This week, we highlight **Lisa Barbarotta MSN, APRN-BC, AOCNS**, Senior Manager of Oncology Nursing Education and Practice for Smilow Cancer Hospital. Over the past three weeks, Lisa has been the calm in the eye of the storm as our teams have created multiple new clinical processes to ensure the safety of our patients. As a nursing leader, Lisa has worked nonstop to update and educate our nursing teams and has continuously kept them informed on evolving protocols related to clinical practice, PPE, and operations. In addition, Lisa has led our efforts to develop and launch the Smilow Rapid Evaluation Clinic to quickly test our patients with worrisome symptoms and further protect them from viral exposure in other parts of the hospital. Lisa's leadership and tireless efforts provide consistency between many workgroups, bringing several complicated initiatives together in this time of crisis.



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

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