

COVID-19 Update: April 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

PPE Update

We continue to monitor our access to PPE at Smilow Cancer Hospital and at all of our Care Centers. All physicians, nurses, and staff should wear appropriate PPE at all times while in the clinical environment, as instructed to do so.

- Please refer to the latest YNHHS/YM Guidelines on PPE policies [online](#).
- Please do not wear makeup while wearing PPE. Stained PPE cannot be sterilized and reprocessed and currently up to 25% of collected PPE is discarded because of staining.
- Donated masks have been delivered to all ambulatory clinics for distribution to patients and approved visitors. Boxes are clearly marked for Patients/Visitors. If a patient or visitor arrives with a mask on, they may continue to use their own mask. Patients and visitors should keep the masks provided to them, and be encouraged to wear them.

COVID-19 Research

We are grateful to Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, for her leadership in the study of immune response to COVID-19 and for taking the time to present during Grand Rounds earlier this week. Dr. Iwasaki's research efforts will undoubtedly bring new insights into the immune system's ability to halt the coronavirus, and potential vaccine development. If you missed her presentation, it is available for review on the Yale Cancer Center [website](#).

NP 4 and NP 8 Clinical Research

In addition to the location changes for medical and surgical oncology care from NP 4 and NP 8, patients currently enrolled on clinical trials from these units will transition their trial follow-up to new locations:

- **Melanoma and Lung Cancer Trials:** Patients will be seen by their providers and treated in North Haven.
- **Genitourinary Cancer Trials:** Patients will be seen by their GU provider either in North Haven or in the Phase I Clinic at 55 Park Avenue; they are receiving individual communication on the location of their visit and treatment.
- **Gastrointestinal Cancer Trials:** Patients will be seen by their GI provider either in North Haven or in the Phase I Clinic at 55 Park Avenue; they are receiving individual communication on the location of their visit and treatment.
- **Head and Neck Cancer Trials:** Patients will be seen by their provider and treated in the Phase I Clinic.
- **Neuro-Oncology Trials:** Patients will be seen by their providers and treated in North Haven.

Smilow Stars

We would like to recognize the heroic efforts of our entire Breast Center and Gynecologic Oncology teams for their work leading up to and during the move of our clinical space from NP 1 to the Shoreline Medical Center in Guilford last week. Their organized planning and tireless efforts helped to ensure our patients were greeted with ease in Guilford on Monday morning. While adjustments have continued throughout the week, overall, our patients and clinicians have transitioned to the new clinical setting with very few disruptions. A special thanks to **Kerstyn Deskin**, Clinical Operations Manager; **Bethany Larkin**, Assistant Patient Services Manager; **Camille Servodidio**, Program Manager; and **Shagunna Renee Muse**, Administrative Manager, for their on-the-ground leadership during the transition.



Key Upcoming Events

- [April 11: YNHH Town Hall; 10:30am](#)
- [April 13: Schwartz Rounds; Noon](#)
- [April 14: Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds; Noon](#)
- [April 15: Patient and Family Forum; 7pm](#)

Best regards,

Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH

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