

COVID-19 Update: March 25, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We look forward to updating you all live during our weekly Town Hall meeting tomorrow at 5pm. Please continue to send your questions in advance by [email](#), and join the live [Zoom meeting](#), or call in to (203) 432-9666; ID: 421 546 627. Dr. Richard Martinello, Medical Director, Infection Prevention for Yale New Haven Health will join us for the discussion.

### **Rounding**

Caring for our cancer patients during the COVID-19 crisis presents unique challenges for our frontline staff and care teams. To fully understand the current working environment and to provide support for our caregivers, members of our Smilow executive leadership team are rounding on our clinical units throughout Smilow.

- On Monday, Kim Slusser and Dr. Billingsley conducted Rounds and met with staff in our outpatient clinics on NP7 and NP8. The visit provided teams with an opportunity to share concerns related to policy around the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Additional topics discussed included protocols for testing for COVID-19 and the impact of the move of our NP12, 14, and 15 inpatient units to the Saint Raphael Campus (SRC).
- In addition, Lori Pickens and Dr. Fuchs spent time seeing patients with the inpatient medical oncology team on Verdi 4 at SRC last week, and Kim Slusser and Dr. Fuchs visited the team in the Extended Care Clinic (ECC) in their new space on EP 1 earlier today. We could not be prouder of the way our clinicians, nurses, and staff have quickly transitioned the care of our patients to new locations in short timeframes and with a creative use of limited resources.
- Members of our leadership team will continue to be a visible presence throughout our inpatient units, infusion units, outpatient clinics, and care centers. Smilow managers will coordinate upcoming Rounds with staff members. As always, please reach out to your manager if you have an immediate concern.

### **Screening Policy**

All patients and visitors continue to be screened at the main entrances to Smilow (NP1 and NP4), Saint Raphael Campus, and our Care Centers.

- Visitors with fevers are now asked to leave and not return for 7 days (formerly 72 hours).
- If a patient has a fever, entrance screeners should contact the patient's care team in clinic directly so that the clinical team can triage and determine what's best for each patient. The patient should not be sent home without a call to the clinic.

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**

Chief Medical Officer  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

**Kim Slusser, MSN, RN, CHPN, NEA-BC**

Vice President for Patient Services  
Smilow Cancer Hospital

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