

COVID-19 Update: March 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The emergence of COVID-19 has presented a great challenge to Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center over the last week, but we are so proud of the work led by countless individuals throughout our organization to meet that challenge. While we all join together to find the best way to care for our patients and our own families during this time, we are constantly reminded of the resilience and dedication of our nurses, physicians, scientists, lab staff, pharmacists, social workers, administrators, and entire staff at SCH and YCC. You have all come together to develop new solutions, and we are grateful for your perseverance.

To continue to ensure we provide you with the latest information and answer your questions, we will host a **weekly virtual Town Hall** every Thursday at 5PM, with our next Town Hall on **March 19 at 5pm**. [Please login or join us by phone](#). For those of you who could not join us last Thursday, our slides are available for review [online](#). In addition to today's communication, we plan to send you regular updates by email.

To plan for the unique needs of our oncology patient population, we quickly assembled a Smilow Cancer Hospital Response Team led by Kim Slusser and Kevin Billingsley. Our Response Team meets by conference call daily and includes 58 representatives across all disciplines from our York Street Campus, Care Centers, Clinical Trials Office, Cancer Center, and the School of Medicine. Each day the Team reviews the most recent COVID-19 updates from the Yale New Haven Health System and works together to coordinate and manage any concerns related to the care of our cancer patients and their families, and the safety of our physicians, caregivers, and staff.

In addition, we have established 10 Work Groups to tackle the unique challenges we are facing. These groups are addressing the full range of operational modifications that will be necessary as we adapt oncology care delivery for the safety of our patients and our caregiver teams. Each Work Group is charged with specific planning tasks and reports to our Response Team. We will report from each of our Work Groups in subsequent communications. In the meantime, if you have a question at any time, please [email](#) us and we will respond to you directly or during Thursday's Town Hall meeting.

Again, thank you for all you do every day for our patients and to support cancer research at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. Please look for detailed updates in our daily communications, and please join us online at 5pm on Thursday for our Town Hall.

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