

Smilow Update: July 30, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Patient Volume

Smilow Cancer Hospital continues to recover to reach our pre-COVID visit volume numbers, and is at 97% of total visits when comparing February to June, including both in person and video visits.

3% Decrease in Total Visit Volume from February to June February 1 – July 28, 2020



Yale New Haven Health Travel Restrictions

A new policy from YNHHS requires Smilow Cancer Hospital providers, nurses, and staff, and all others who work or volunteer in all YNHHS facilities to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return from an area of a high occurrence of COVID, an "Affected State," to Connecticut if travel is not related to healthcare work in Connecticut.

- The list of Affected States is updated weekly and can be found [online](#).

- Personal travel to Affected States or international locations is strongly discouraged. Staff returning from international travel shall self-quarantine for 14 days.
- YNHHS staff returning from personal travel in an Affected State are not allowed to present for work during the 14-day period of the mandatory self-quarantine.
- Staff required to self-quarantine due to travel should discuss with their supervisor to determine if telework is possible. If telework is not an option, employees must use PTO for the duration of the self-quarantine period. Any quarantine that cannot be covered by PTO will be unpaid.
- Providers and staff returning from an Affected State must:
 - Submit a **Travel Health Form** to the State of Connecticut.
 - Communicate their travel to an Affected State to their supervisor.
 - Report travel to an Affected State to YNHHS Occupational Health by calling the COVID-19 Call Center: 203-688-1700 (use Option 2).

Smilow Star

A true Smilow Star, **Mario Lupone, RN**, a nurse on NP 12 always has a smile on his face, and is fully-committed to his patients and supporting their families and caregivers. Mario helps promote a culture of caring, engagement, and support among all members of the Smilow team. He consistently demonstrates hard work, honesty, accountability, and care of the whole patient. Most of all, Mario clearly finds meaning and joy in the important work he does, and it shows with each and every interaction with patients and staff!

Mario recently completed his BSN degree, while working full time at Smilow, and caring for young children along with his wife, Rachel. He's also a dedicated member of Team Live Positive for Closer to Free, currently participating in his 7th year! Mario will soon move to a new position at Smilow to care for patients in the Phase I Unit, and will be an incredible asset to that team as well. Our inpatient team looks forward to continuing to cross paths with Mario at Smilow and are grateful for his dedication and service to our medical oncology patients on NP 12 over the years.



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
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