

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

April 9, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Current COVID-19 stats

At BJH, there are currently **74** inpatients who are confirmed positive and **48** admitted patients under investigation (PUIs), which means that results are pending.

Virtual visits: Meeting health-care needs at home



To keep our patients and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington University Physicians is now offering virtual visits across most departments that provide outpatient care. Although planning was already underway to roll out virtual care practice-wide, this offering evolved quickly due to the current emergent

situation. This service allows our providers to deliver care to both existing and new patients via phone, tablet or computer. Video visits use Zoom, which is HIPPA-compliant. Scheduling is handled through each department. The response has been enthusiastic, and we are pleased to meet the health-care needs of our patients while they stay safely at home. Since implementing telemedicine visits on March 23, our providers have seen nearly 9,000 patients virtually. [Learn more about virtual visits.](#)

Clinical trial launches to evaluate antimalarial drugs for COVID-19 treatment



A [new School of Medicine study](#) will investigate whether two antimalarial drugs, chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, alone or in combination with a common antibiotic, is effective in treating patients with COVID-19. The drugs to be used in the trial were donated by Cigna/Express Scripts, and the trial will include patients hospitalized with COVID-19 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Renal division makes DIY hand sanitizer



Amanda Knoten, foreground, and Sanjay Jain, MD, both in the Division of Nephrology, worked together today to make 40 liters of hand sanitizer that will be distributed across the School of Medicine and to several area School of Medicine-affiliated dialysis clinics. The effort is helping to supplement existing supplies of hand sanitizer and keep essential employees healthy. The hand sanitizer is registered with the FDA, and the nephrology team has made over 200 liters in all.

Observing patient privacy rights of coworkers

The safety and well-being of our people is our top priority. We understand coworkers will continue to be concerned about colleagues who test positive for COVID-19 and the impact on others. Please remember that all information related to a person being tested for COVID-19, or furloughed as a precautionary measure, is considered PHI, even when they are a health-care worker. If a co-worker tests positive, Occupational Health will quickly assess the situation to determine next steps to protect our employees while also protecting individuals' HIPAA rights. Monitoring software, FairWarning, also is in place to ensure access to COVID testing results and treatment are appropriate. In all cases, we work closely with the St. Louis Health Department to identify and reach out directly to anyone who may

have had an exposure. Thank you for respecting the patient privacy of all our colleagues.

Call for proposals: COVID-19 social and policy countermeasures

The Washington University Institute for Public Health is seeking to [fund proposals from our faculty scholars](#) that focus on social and policy countermeasures in health to mitigate the spread and negative impact of COVID-19 among individuals and communities.

Lunch: Courtesy of donors and area restaurants

Many individuals and area restaurants have asked about donating food to our frontline heroes. Thanks to collaboration between infection prevention staff and The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital, meals will be provided for rotating groups of patient care areas. The Foundation is working with donors and restaurants to ensure that infection prevention standards are followed. If a restaurant or community member asks how they can help, refer them to the FoundationforBJH@bjc.org.

WashU doctors answer coronavirus questions

Jason Newland, professor of pediatrics and of infectious diseases, [answers viewers' questions about coronavirus](#) as a frequent guest on KSDK. A number of our infectious disease physicians and fellows also answer daily questions from KSDK viewers. The answers are posted on the station's website and included in evening newscasts.

Important numbers and links

- Call the BJC/WUSM employee hotline for COVID-19 exposure or illness: 314-362-5056

- Use this [online screening tool](#) before reporting to work
- Email inspirational stories to heroes@wustl.edu
- Review [inpatient protocol](#)
- Review [ambulatory protocol](#)

For Medical Campus updates, visit coronavirus.med.wustl.edu »

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