🛡 Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

WashU Med COVID-19 Update   April 20, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

95 inpatients confirmed positive   **51** admitted, awaiting test results

Five questions about Personal Protective Equipment

Hilary Babcock, infectious disease physician at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and Rachael Snyders, BJC Center for Clinical Excellence infection prevention manager, answer questions about personal protective equipment in this 6-minute video hosted by Emily Brasel, director of communications for BJC HealthCare.

The video is part of "5 Questions with…," an ongoing series in which leaders

answer viewer questions about important Medical Campus topics.

How to hold safe Zoom meetings

The university has to date hosted more than 90,000 Zoom meetings in the wake of social isolation protocols.

On April 16, a Zoombombing occurred during a student's thesis defense. Zoombombing is when uninvited attendees break into and disrupt a meeting.

The Office of Information Security and WashU IT offer the following tips to help ensure safe Zoom meetings:

- Screen sharing should default to "Host Only" – do not change to "Participants." If someone besides the host needs to screen share, they can be elevated to co-host.
- "Require Meeting Password" is defaulted to on. This helps protect against unauthorized entries, adding a second layer of security on top of just having the meeting link.
- "Use Personal Meeting ID" is defaulted to off. Using these IDs is a key entry point for attackers.
- Keep links to Zoom meetings private. This will prevent unwanted participants. Do not share Zoom meeting links on public websites or on social media, such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Control who enters a meeting with the waiting room feature.
- Lock the meeting after it starts. When you're in the meeting, click "Participants" at the bottom of your Zoom window. In the Participants' pop-up box, you will see a button that says "Lock Meeting."

While on campus, wear your badge

All employees are required to wear their badge for entry to Washington University Medical Campus facilities. It is for the safety of our patients and fellow workers. Please wear your badge so you are not denied admittance.

COVID-19 prevention: Enhanced cleaning and disinfection measures

All COVID-19 area disinfections are being contracted through Woodard Cleaning & Restoration. A Woodard project manager will assess the area to determine the resources needed for cleaning and disinfection. Woodard will use its nVIRO Shield electrostatic machines to disinfect up to 5,000 square feet per hour with a coronavirus kill time of four minutes. The time of notification to complete disinfection is currently 12 hours. Turnaround time may vary based on demand and the size of the area that needs to be sanitized.

Increased protocols

Custodial teams are frequently disinfecting key touch points such as elevator buttons, door handles (both interior and exterior), handrails, light switches, etc., throughout the Medical Campus and replenishing hand sanitizer dispensers located in most elevator lobbies and entryways.

Communication of requests

All COVID-19-positive disinfection requests received by Facilities Management will be immediately communicated to Emergency Management, the assistant vice chancellor of facilities, the senior director of facilities and the Operations & Facilities Management Department leadership. Emergency Management will confirm the case with Occupational Health and disseminate communication to relevant parties. In instances that Occupational Health receives a positive COVID-19 test result of a WUSM faculty or staff member, Occupational Health will notify Emergency Management, which will then communicate to relevant parties and contact custodial leadership to start disinfection procedures.

For more information, contact Mario Turner, director of custodial services, at turnerlc@wustl.edu.

Guidelines for re-using, cleaning goggles and face shields

For your safety, please follow these Eye Protection Re-Use & Cleaning Guidelines when using goggles or face shields.

Medical students featured on the Higher Education Channel for designing and making face shields for front-line medical staff

In an elective class, eight third-year medical students responded to a call-to-action from Victoria J. Fraser, the Adolphus Busch Professor of Medicine and head of the Department of Medicine, to make reusable face shields during the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Channel highlighted the efforts of the students, who in three days manufactured 1,600 face shields to be used over N95 or surgical masks. Steve Lawrence, associate professor of medicine, is the faculty adviser for the students involved in coronavirus response initiatives. He said these students, though not yet graduates with medical licenses, "already are finding ways to be able to contribute meaningfully for the community in our region in ways that never would have been anticipated going into medical school."

Make some noise for essential workers

The Rise up for Heroes campaign got off to a rousing start Saturday as St. Louis sports mascots -- Louie from the Blues and Fredbird from the Cardinals -- visited Barnes-Jewish Hospital and a nearby Schnucks to cheer essential workers. The "CAREavan" parades through neighborhoods, encouraging residents to go outside at 7 p.m. every night -- while maintaining a safe distance -- to spread cheer where front-line heroes work and live. Learn more about Rise up for Heroes.

Important numbers and links

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

- Review inpatient protocol

- Review ambulatory protocol

- Call the Coping with COVID hotline for in-the-moment emotional support: 314-286-1700

- Contact the Employee Assistance Program for 24/7 work-life support: 844-365-4587

- Email inspirational stories to heroes@wustl.edu

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