

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

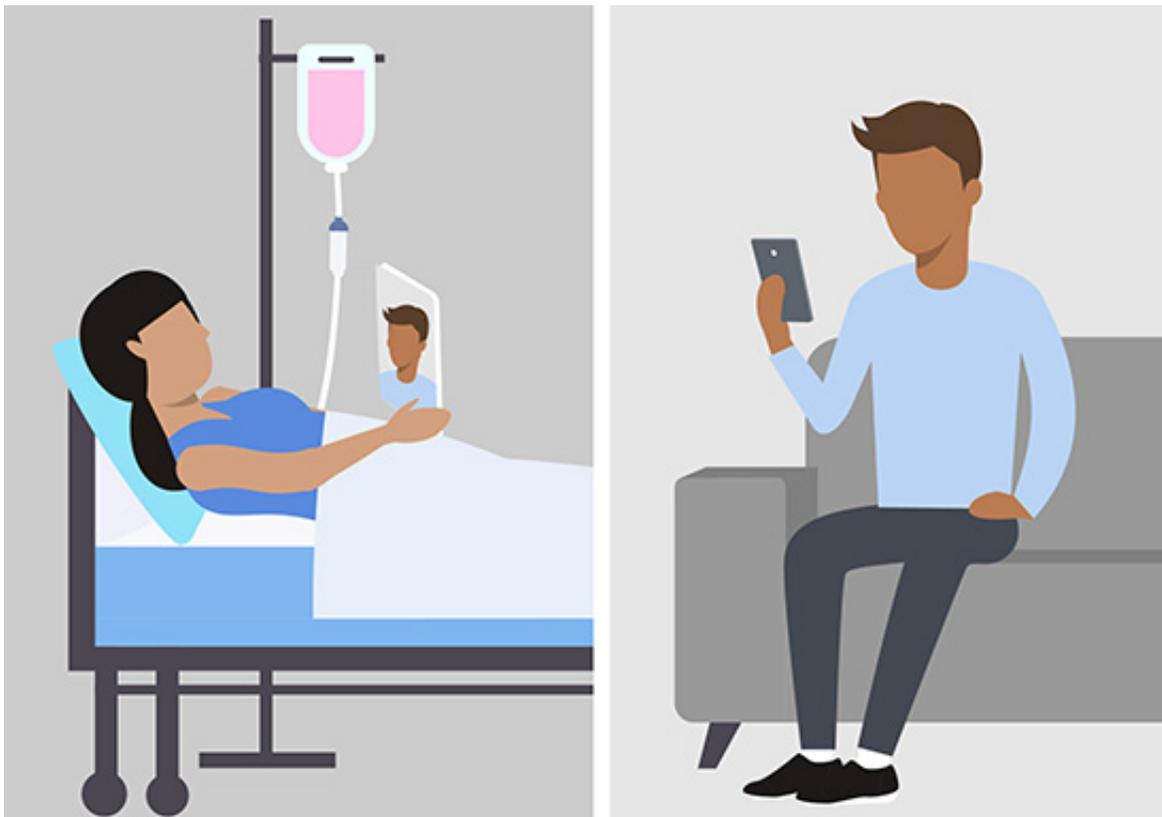
April 27, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

92 inpatients confirmed positive **25** admitted, awaiting test results

Student-staffed help center now available for virtual visitors



WUSM students have launched a virtual help center to connect COVID-19 patients with their loved ones at a time of heightened fear, panic and isolation.

“BJC considers the patient’s loved ones an important part of the care team,” said Jennifer Carron, executive director of patient experience at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. “Our Virtual Visitor program puts tablets with Zoom technology in the hands of our patients, but in some cases that only solves half the issue.”

Loved ones, already dealing with the anxiety of not being at the patient’s bedside, often struggle to use their personal devices for virtual visits. The help center’s student volunteers alleviate that additional stress by providing technical support — from their own cell phones — while maintaining physical distancing. Sarah Cohen, M2, and Kate Douglas, M4, introduced the help center Friday, April 24.

“We couldn’t imagine being cut off from seeing or hearing our loved ones, especially while ill, and so we were so excited to find a way to help create that connection for BJC patients,” Cohen and Douglas said in an email.

Said Carron: “This is not only extremely helpful for the patient and their loved ones, but also for the students. They are learning and experiencing firsthand the importance of human connection for patients.”

Parking rules updated

The Operations & Facilities Management Department has updated its protocol for temporary parking during the pandemic.

Free open-lot parking will expire on May 1, and only permit holders will be able to park in those lots beginning May 4.

Discounted parking is still available to all WUSM employees, and more space has become available in the Duncan Central garage. For details, [visit the facilities site](#).



University launches “Ask the WashU Doctors” video series



In the inaugural video of a series from Washington University, [two doctors answer questions about cloth masks and medical respirators](#).

The physicians — Cheri LeBlanc, MD, executive director of the Habif Health and Wellness Center at the University, and Steven Lawrence, MD, MSc, an associate professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases — also discuss other ways to stay safe when in public.

Laurie Punch held Facebook live event with the public



Dr. Laurie Punch, MD, associate professor of surgery, is a committed physician — so committed that they spend free time educating the public. On Saturday, Punch hosted a [Facebook Live event](#) answering questions on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"I want you all to know how to stop the virus," Punch said. "I want you ready and

with the power to be able to act."

University housing front-line health-care workers



During the coronavirus epidemic, Washington University is providing temporary housing to front-line health workers and first responders at the Danforth Campus' Charles F. Knight Executive Education and Conference Center and The Lofts on the Delmar Loop. This free benefit is being offered, along with meals, to employees who don't want to return home between shifts, either to avoid the risk of spreading the virus to their families or due to travel distances.

Anesthesiologist Adithya Bhat spoke [in a recent KSDK interview about his experience](#). "It's definitely a departure from my own apartment, but it's very convenient," Bhat said. "I have absolutely no complaints whatsoever. They have been very accommodating."

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

- 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 »

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