

## WashU Med COVID-19 Update

April 30, 2020

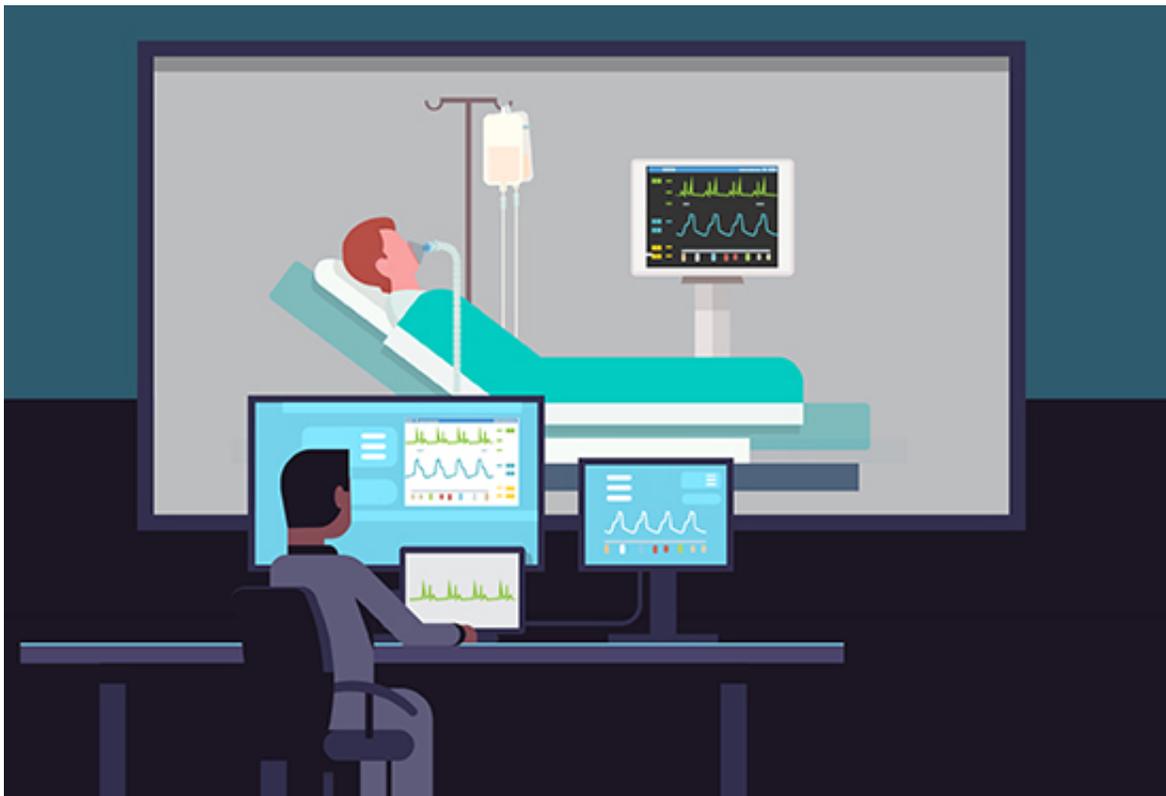
Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

### Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

**89** inpatients confirmed positive      **44** admitted, awaiting test results

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### Cardiologists monitor heart rhythms of COVID-19 patients by remote telemetry



Washington University cardiologists at Barnes-Jewish Hospital have developed a [streamlined way for clinicians to monitor the heart rhythms of COVID-19 patients](#)

[by remote telemetry](#). Many of the drugs being investigated to treat the novel coronavirus have been associated with dangerous arrhythmias. According to cardiologist Phillip Cuculich, MD, a remote method to monitor heart rhythms could improve care for patients and protect health-care workers from the additional exposure that would result when conducting repeated electrocardiograms (ECGs).

Several of the drugs being given to patients with COVID-19, including chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, are associated with a dangerous cardiac side effect called a long QT interval. When the QT interval becomes too long, it can lead to a life-threatening arrhythmia called ventricular fibrillation, which causes cardiac arrest.

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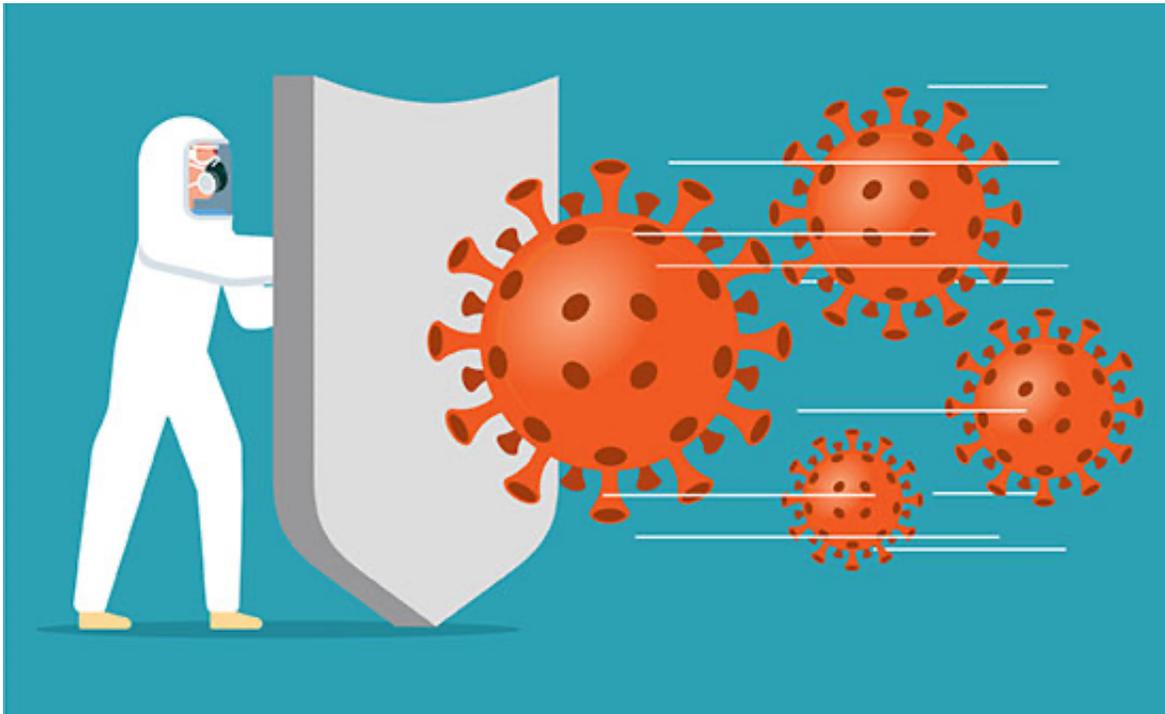
## Scott Avenue employee testing site closes Friday



The WUSM/BJC employee testing site located at Scott and Taylor avenues is permanently closing at 2 p.m. tomorrow, May 1. The Central West End site, across from the Clayton Avenue Building at 4353 Clayton Ave., will begin testing WUSM and BJC employees and physicians. If you're an employee and develop COVID-19 symptoms, call the hotline, 314-362-5056, for a testing site referral. Asymptomatic individuals are not being tested. Five other WUSM/BJC employee testing sites also are operational in the bi-state region.

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## PPE guidelines now in one convenient location



Comprehensive recommendations regarding all types of personal protective equipment (PPE) are now available in [one toolkit on the Faculty Practice Plan website](#). Based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, the information includes protocols for donning and doffing, inspecting, cleaning, reuse and conservation for a wide variety of equipment.

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## Flattening the curve helps hospitals avoid rationing care

COVID-19 has brought St. Louis City and County to a virtual standstill with stay-at-home orders issued in late March, but efforts to flatten the curve appear to be working. Local hospitals have not been overwhelmed and have been able to provide quality care to those who need it. Kristen Mueller, MD, WashU emergency medicine physician at Barnes-Jewish Hospital told St. Louis Public Radio listeners that [she and her colleagues had enough resources to do their jobs effectively](#); however there were challenges. Since PPE, including N95 masks, are a requirement in the Emergency Department now, it's difficult to communicate with patients who have hearing problems or rely on lips to communicate.

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## Student volunteers seek fabric donations for cloth masks



The [WUSM Medical Student COVID-19 Response Team](#) is seeking fabric donations (and other supplies) to make cloth face masks per CDC guidelines. The team is working in partnership with [PrepareSTL](#) to distribute masks to high-risk members of the community. The team already has made masks for all student volunteers (such as those delivering food to quarantined people, providing child care for frontline health-care workers, making 3D-printed PPE, and contact tracing with the St. Louis County Health Department).

[Fill out this form](#) if you can provide any of the following materials, and a volunteer will arrange a contact-free pickup. Needed materials include: 100% cotton fabric, preferably quilting-grade or from a fabric store (no pillowcases/bed sheets/T-shirts); thread; elastic; bias tape; Ziploc bags; and sewing machines (to lend temporarily, not donate).

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## The pandemic through the eyes of a medical student

Cyrus Ghaznavi, a second-year medical student and aspiring infectious disease physician, shares a personal account of what it's like to be a [medical student during the pandemic](#). Medical students nationally, Ghaznavi writes, are shifting from studying their textbooks to finding ways to relieve the burden on frontline physicians — without having direct contact with sick patients. “We medical students may not be able to jump in alongside them, but we will persist in supporting our mentors so that they can provide the best care they are capable of delivering,” Ghaznavi writes.



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## 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](mailto:heroes@wustl.edu)

For Medical Campus updates, visit [coronavirus.med.wustl.edu](https://coronavirus.med.wustl.edu) »

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