

## WashU Med COVID-19 Update

June 22, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

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

**35** inpatients confirmed positive      **22** admitted, awaiting test results

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### Antibody tests evaluated as a diagnostic in low-resource settings



Public health authorities worldwide desperately need to expand testing so they can track the spread of the infection, but molecular diagnostic tests used in the U.S.

and other wealthy countries are too expensive for widespread use in many low- and middle-income countries. [Antibody tests may provide an alternative approach](#), according to Gary Weil, MD, professor of medicine and of molecular microbiology. He and his WUSM colleagues have joined an international effort led by the Foundation for International Diagnostics and the World Health Organization (WHO) to evaluate COVID-19 antibody tests for use as diagnostics in places with limited resources. “Rapid antibody tests for COVID could work really well in low-resource settings because they require only a finger stick of blood, and results are available within minutes,” Weil said.

Above, Yuefang Huang, a senior research technician, performs rapid COVID-19 antibody tests as part of a research effort evaluating efficacy in low-resource settings.

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## Unwelcome third party — the virus — interrupts MLB talks



As part of his role as an infectious disease expert in the Department of Pediatrics, Jason Newland, MD, has actively researched and advised what policies must be in place as schools resume classes during the coronavirus epidemic. In a [St. Louis Post-Dispatch article](#) (subscription needed), Newland said that Major League

Baseball — with its players coming and going to ballparks — shares many similarities with schools.

Teams are effectively schools on wheels, he said. “You have to keep them close together, like an elementary school class that starts the day together, stays together, eats lunch together, and goes home,” Newland said. “If you keep that group together, you know where the group goes, and you know the group is safe.”

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## Adjusted hours for COVID-19 hotline

Starting today, the COVID-19 hotline hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. School of Medicine and BJC HealthCare employees should call the hotline — at 314-362-5056 — to report any COVID-19 symptoms or household exposures.



## Register for virtual Dean’s Update

Please join David H. Perlmutter, MD, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean, for the annual State of the School address. Virtual sessions take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 24, and 3:30 p.m. Friday, June 26. Pre-registration is required. A link will be sent to registrants prior to the event. Zoom capacity for each event is 1,000.



[View details and register for one of the sessions.](#)

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## From the front lines



Caregivers work with patients in the Charles F. Knight Emergency and Trauma Center during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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
- Know your [screening stations](#)
- Review [inpatient protocol](#)
- Review [ambulatory protocol](#)
- Call the Well-Being Line 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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