

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

July 23, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

39 inpatients confirmed positive **21** admitted, awaiting test results

WashU, SLU to evaluate coronavirus vaccines in 3,000 area volunteers



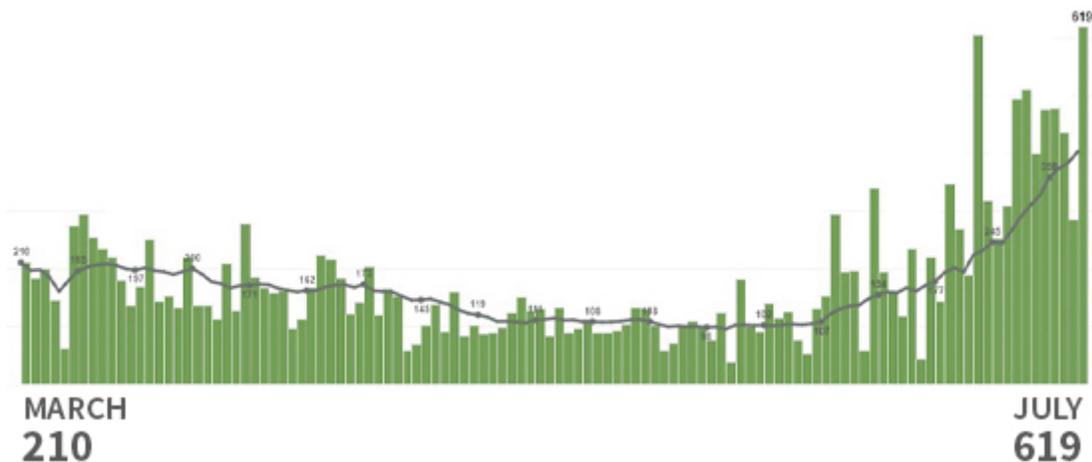
Washington University and Saint Louis University soon will begin a series of clinical trials to test potential COVID-19 vaccines in people. In the next six months, the universities plan to recruit 3,000 people to evaluate whether these vaccines provide protection against the coronavirus. In a recent [St. Louis Public Radio story](#), Rachel Presti, MD, PhD, an associate professor of medicine and director of

Washington University's Infectious Disease Clinical Research Unit, provided details about the collaboration. She said researchers at the two schools will run at least five vaccine studies.

The scale and urgency of the pandemic has made collaboration across institutions essential, according to Presti. "This pandemic is affecting every part of people's lives: their jobs, their health and their enjoyment of life," she said. "If we have a vaccine that protects people from getting sick, we can start to get our lives back."

[Learn more about the trials here.](#)

Reported cases in St. Louis area continue to spike

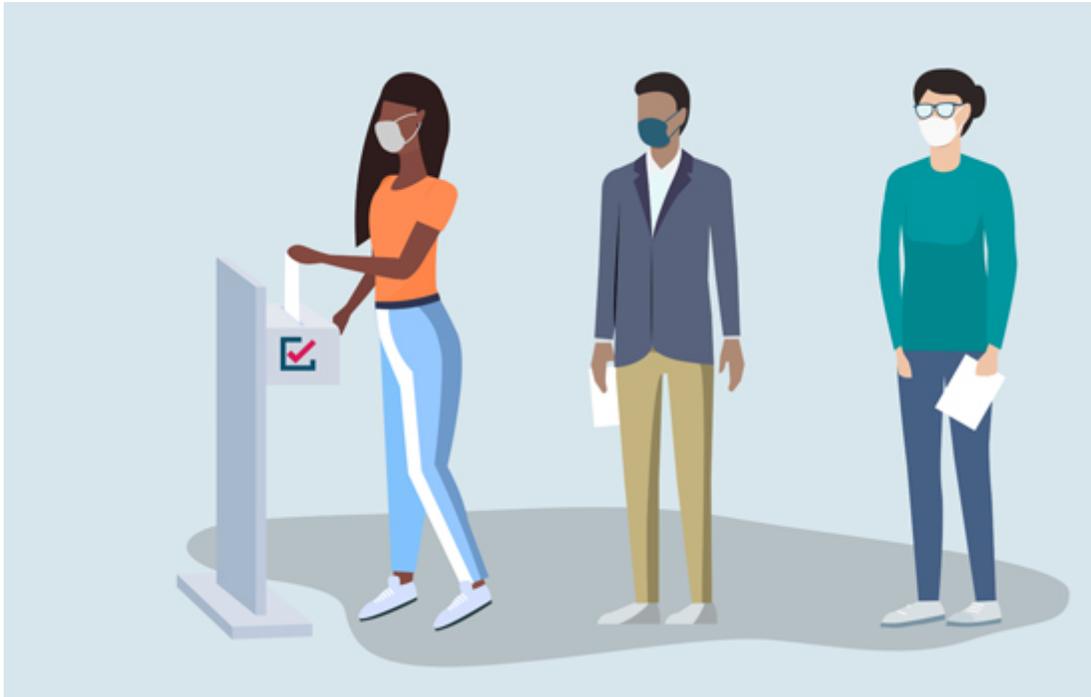


The above graph shows the number of COVID-19 cases reported each day in the St. Louis area from the end of March to the present, which underscores the continued need for faculty, staff, trainees, patients and visitors to wear masks. The simple act of wearing a mask properly has been proven to be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Please continue to be diligent in promoting proper face masking, physical distancing and hand hygiene at all times. Face masks should cover both the nose and mouth to be effective. If you see a colleague wearing their mask incorrectly, help them keep and others safe by showing them the proper way to wear the mask.

Review [proper mask use](#) to make sure we're all creating the safest environment for everyone.

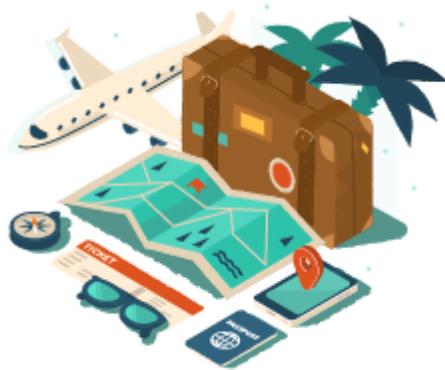
Ways to vote for Medicaid Expansion on Aug. 4



On Aug. 4, registered voters will have the opportunity to vote yes on Amendment 2 to expand Medicaid to 230,000 hardworking Missourians who live in poverty yet do not currently qualify for Medicaid. To help make your voting experience easier, the School of Medicine has created an online [Guide to voting in Missouri on Aug. 4](#).

Consider travel restrictions before planning vacation

As you plan for summer vacation, be aware that some states, counties and municipalities are imposing restrictions on travelers. At this time, some locations have identified Missouri as a risk zone and are requiring travelers to and from Missouri to quarantine for 14 days. For up-to-date information and travel guidance, check the [state or local health department](#) where you are, along your route, and at your planned destination. The CDC website offers helpful [travel guidance](#).



Respiratory pathogen panel test

Beginning today, the current respiratory panel (AKA “multiplex” or “RVP”) also will include SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The updated test (Respiratory Panel 2.1, RP2.1) should ONLY be ordered for the same indications in the same situations as the current respiratory panel.

It should not be used for any asymptomatic or pre-procedural COVID-19 testing. If the RP2.1 is inappropriately ordered for pre-procedural testing, we will consume our constrained supply, and patients could incur significant charges, as RP2.1 costs will not be reimbursed when used for asymptomatic testing. There is no change to the process of ordering COVID-19 testing in asymptomatic patients (e.g., pre-procedural) at this time using the Epic Order: “COVID-19 Coronavirus RNA.”

The RP2.1 multiplex will be ordered using the Epic order “Respiratory pathogen PCR.” A provider alert will appear that COVID-19 is included on the panel. A duplicate check will occur within the laboratory system to cancel any stand-alone COVID-19 testing orders on the same specimen type if ordered within 12 hours of the RP2.1.

As with other COVID-19 tests ordered on symptomatic patients, placing the order for the test will place a "suspect COVID" isolation flag on the patient. If the test result is negative for COVID-19, the "suspect COVID" flag will immediately change to the "Respiratory Infection (ILI)" flag (contact and droplet). There will no longer be a 24-hour delay on that flag change.

Winning teams: WashU and Cards



Clinical lab assistant Jarrol Pugh does his part for the research team by processing COVID-19 samples. Blood, urine and saliva coronavirus samples are handled for research six days a week at the Siteman Core Lab Services at the BJC Institute of Health at Washington University School of Medicine.

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

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

To ensure that this newsletter is delivered to your inbox, add updates@wusm.wustl.edu to your

