Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

48 inpatients confirmed positive  17 admitted, awaiting test results

Question of the week: Is it safe to travel for Thanksgiving?

We are more than seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic. As we enter the holiday season, many of us are struggling with the idea of not spending time with family and friends or participating in long-standing traditions. Thanksgiving in
particular is usually a time to get together with our loved ones and give thanks for the many good things in our lives, even in these difficult times. These are tough choices. We answer some of the most common questions about celebrating the holidays in our [safe holiday travel FAQ](#).

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**Minimizing food-sharing risks at work**

While COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness, food-sharing often poses other risks, such as close contact and handling of utensils. For this reason:

- Do not organize work potlucks, bring in cakes or other food to share or have shared candy dishes.
- If food is provided for any reason, social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained.
- Do not use shared serving utensils.
- If food is provided for a business purpose, prepackaged or boxed meals are preferred.
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available where the food is being served, and that everyone performs hand hygiene prior to handling food or utensils.
Additional flu vaccination events available

There’s still time to get your flu shot by the Nov. 20 deadline. Additional flu vaccination events now are being offered in the Eric P. Newman Education Center, Room 308-310:

- Nov. 5: 12–3:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9: 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Nov. 11: 12–3:30 p.m.

High-dose and single-dose vaccines are available. Appointments required. Visit flu.wustl.edu for more information, or email fluvaccine@wustl.edu.

Flu season among COVID pandemic

This year’s flu season is causing concern and confusion amid the pandemic. It also has people asking many questions, including what are the differences between the flu and COVID-19? In a recent interview on FOX2’s Pulse of St. Louis, Mati Hlatshwayo Davis, MD, instructor in medicine, answers that question and others.

“The answer is, as soon as you start to get those symptoms — fever, cough or you
Taking time off to vote

Despite the pandemic and fewer polling locations this election year, employees have options and flexibility to ensure they can exercise their civic responsibility and vote on election day, Nov. 3. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Missouri and Illinois. Visit WashU Votes on the Human Resources website to learn more about employee time off for voting and how managers and employees can prepare for election day.

Find other resources and information on voting in the 2020 election and tips to stay engaged and stress-free during election season.

Respiratory Pathogen Panel testing
Several changes have been made to COVID-19 and Respiratory Pathogen Panel testing for patients in the hospital. Ambulatory orders will not be changing at this time but ambulatory updates will be coming soon.

Commuting safely on Metro

For those commuting to work on Metro, we want to ensure you have the tools to understand all requirements, report issues you may have and travel safely each day.
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro has taken steps to ensure your safety, including:

- Disinfecting and cleaning vehicles and locations multiple times per day
- Placing educational and directional signage within vehicles to encourage social distancing
- Installing handwashing stations at multiple stops
- Enforcing mandatory face coverings on all vehicles
- Establishing customer service options to allow customers to communicate concerns with Metro staff and conductors

Metro customers can communicate with the Metro Transit team anytime Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m., via phone (314-231-2345), text message (314-207-9786), email (customerservice@metrostlouis.org), Twitter (@STLMetro), or Facebook (STLMetro).

Learn more at the Operations & Facilities Management Department website.
Students gathered in Hudlin Park to carve pumpkins while wearing masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Top: Medical student Rochelle Ellison puts finishing touches on her creation. Bottom: Anne Goldberg, MD, professor of medicine, admires and judges the pumpkins.
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
- Contact the Employee Assistance Program for 24/7 work-life support: 844-365-4587
- Email story ideas and requests 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 address book.