

## WashU Med COVID-19 Update

December 10, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

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

**134** inpatients confirmed positive      **9** admitted, awaiting test results

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### COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall recording now available

A COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall was held Wednesday, Dec. 9, for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students. It provided information on the two COVID-19 vaccines currently under review by the FDA, including efficacy and safety data. Speakers also discussed the plan for administering vaccinations on the Medical Campus in the coming weeks.



You may [access a recording of the session](#) in Box.

If you were unable to attend, a second town hall is scheduled for 1-2 p.m., Monday, Dec. 21. Watch your email next week for a Dean Announce that will provide the Zoom link.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccination, visit the [CDC](#) and [Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](#) websites.

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**Thank you, WUSM staff volunteers**



More than 400 WUSM staff have volunteered to assist with administering the COVID-19 vaccine to BJC and WUSM employees.

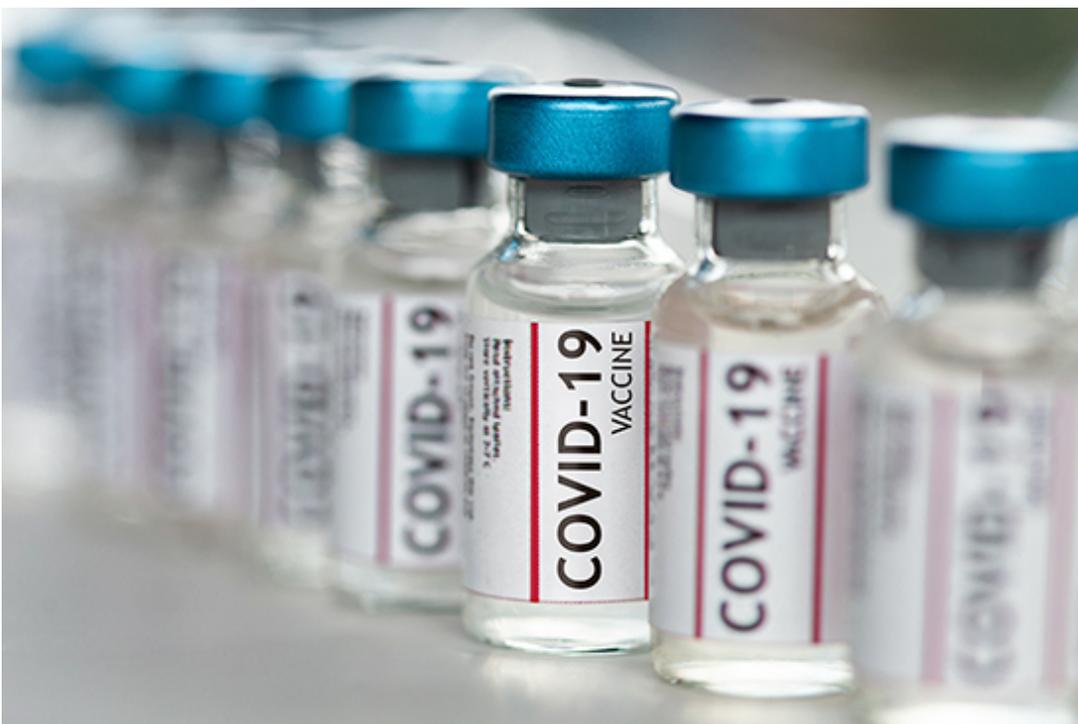
“The vaccine will be delivered over many months and must be administered quickly,” said Paul Scheel Jr., MD, associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs at the School of Medicine and chief executive officer of Washington University Physicians. “This could not be accomplished without their help.”

In addition, BJC reached out to WUSM nurses as rising COVID-19 hospital admissions began to stretch staffing capacity thin.

“Again, our dedicated staff stepped up to provide critical help where it was needed,” Scheel said. “I’d like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for their selfless service during this challenging time.”

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## Podcast: COVID-19 vaccines around the corner



The latest episode of the [“Show Me the Science”](#) podcast focuses on the amazing pace of COVID-19 vaccine development, as well as Washington University’s role in vaccine clinical trials. Infectious diseases specialist Rachel Presti, MD, PhD, an associate professor of medicine and medical director of Washington University’s Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Unit, discusses how soon most of us can expect to get a vaccine and how safe those shots are likely to be.

In addition, Matifadza Hlatshwayo Davis, MD, a clinical instructor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, shares insight on how COVID-19 and the flu might interact as the pandemic continues during flu season. Hlatshwayo Davis believes it’s important for everyone to get a flu shot, and she and Presti agree that if we can double down on use of masks, hand-washing and social distancing, we will limit the spread of COVID-19 while also cutting down on the number of flu cases this year.

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## How to stay safe in a social distancing bubble



As Americans prepare for a difficult winter — the next few months are expected to be the worst yet of the pandemic — many are creating social distancing bubbles to lessen feelings of isolation. A social distancing bubble includes a small number of friends or family members you can socialize with and enjoy a meal with, mask-free. In a recent [CNN article](#), health experts describe what rules need to be followed, how to handle tricky conversations with friends and family, and what happens if someone socializes outside the bubble.

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## WashU working with CDC and others to track COVID-19 transmission in Missouri schools



Washington University's Institute for Public Health, St. Louis University and the Centers for Disease Control are partnering with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on a project to better understand transmission of COVID-19 in schools.

Schools in St. Louis County, St. Charles County and Greene County will participate in the three-month effort, which is voluntary.

The project will determine the impact of COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures, such as mask mandates at local school levels, on virus transmission in school settings. When a case is identified in a participating school, contact tracing will be performed to identify close contacts. Those individuals will self-monitor for symptoms and be offered saliva testing developed by Washington University at various times during the quarantine period to help identify potential transmission.

A [recent KMOV story](#) quoted Jason Newland, MD, professor of pediatrics, about the project.

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**Have symptoms? Stay home!**



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This poster from the BJC employee safety campaign urges anyone with symptoms to stay home to protect their colleagues. The complete series of [posters](#) is available for downloading and posting in employee-facing work areas around the Medical Campus.

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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](#)
- Contact the Employee Assistance Program for 24/7 work-life support: 844-365-4587
- View WUSM [employee and student testing data](#)
- Email story ideas and requests 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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