Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

126 inpatients confirmed positive  4 admitted, awaiting test results

COVID-19 vaccinations for health-care workers begin on Medical Campus

As part of a historic effort to end the COVID-19 pandemic, health-care personnel at the School of Medicine and BJC HealthCare have begun receiving the first doses of a vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Almost 10,000 doses of the
Pfizer vaccine will be administered in the coming weeks to employees who have direct contact with patients, work in patient-care areas or handle potentially infectious materials. Such patient-facing personnel have been prioritized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the state of Missouri to receive the vaccine first.

“We are thankful that it is now possible to offer a safe and effective SARS-CoV-2 vaccine to our front-line personnel,” said David H. Perlmutter, MD, executive vice chancellor for medical affairs, the George and Carol Bauer Dean of the School of Medicine, and the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor. “Our health-care workforce has drawn from a deep well of purpose and perseverance to take care of patients with COVID-19 and allow our hospitals and clinics to provide for the community under the most incredibly trying of circumstances.”

Patient-facing employees receiving email notification for scheduling vaccination

The School of Medicine and BJC HealthCare are implementing vaccine distribution plans that have been in development since October in coordination with state and local health departments.
The first round of vaccinations is prioritized for patient-facing employees and scheduled in waves organized by age. Eligible employees have started receiving emails with information on vaccine event times and locations, and with instructions on how to schedule their vaccination appointment. A succession of emails will be distributed in the coming weeks until every age group has had an opportunity to schedule their vaccine.

Please note:

- You will be notified by email as soon as you are eligible to schedule your vaccine. Appointment waves will be distributed every 2-3 days, depending on appointment availability. **Do not call to schedule an appointment until you receive an email.** You will not be able to receive the vaccine before receiving the email.
- **Please do not forward your appointment link.** Email invitations are based on each recipient’s specific job role and age.
- If you believe you should have received an email and have not, please first **check your junk email folder.** If you don’t find one there, notify your manager, who can escalate your inquiry.
- If you do not have email, you will receive notification from your supervisor.

Employees will continue to receive updates as the vaccine rollout continues.

**Second COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall scheduled for Monday**
Faculty, students, trainees and staff are invited to attend a second COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall scheduled for 1-2 p.m., Monday, Dec. 21. Speakers will provide information on the COVID-19 vaccines, including safety, efficacy and side effects. They will also discuss the plan for administering vaccinations on the Medical Campus in the coming weeks. Registration is not required.

If the Zoom session exceeds 1,000 attendees and you are unable to enter, please use YouTube Live streaming. Questions are welcome via the Q&A feature on Zoom (this feature is not available on YouTube).

For those who are not able to attend, the session will be recorded and posted for viewing on the School of Medicine COVID-19 website.

You may access a recording of last week's town hall in Box. For more information about COVID-19 vaccination, visit the CDC and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services websites.

Answering questions from patients, visitors about the COVID-19 vaccine

Clinical staff should refer to the most recent information available to respond to
questions from patients, visitors and other guests about COVID-19 vaccination, including the initial rollout timeframe and availability as well as vaccine safety and patient care protocols.

WUSM infectious disease specialist on vaccine rollout, personal impact

This week, BJC and Washington University are two of about 20 facilities across Missouri getting the first shipments of the state's 51,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Front-line health workers and other employees with patient contact will be among the first to receive the shot.

In a recent KSDK story, Hilary Babcock, MD, professor of medicine, said she is in the first group to be vaccinated. The impact of COVID-19 on her family, she added, motivates her to get the shot. "As someone who had COVID myself in the spring and I lost my mom to COVID in the summer, I am so excited to finally have something positive and something good that we know will actually make a difference in controlling this pandemic," Babcock said.

Helping COVID-19 patients regain sense of smell
As cases of COVID-19 increase in the community, hospitals are seeing a steady increase in patients who have lost their sense of taste or smell. When the loss occurs suddenly, patients should suspect COVID-19 and take the precautionary steps indicated by their health-care provider, according to Jay Piccirillo, MD, FACS, professor of otolaryngology.

In this Q&A from the Department of Otolaryngology, Piccirillo discusses how otolaryngologists are helping patients who have lost their sense of smell — a condition known as anosmia — due to COVID-19.

Share your vaccination story on social media with #WashUMyBestShot
Will you be among the first to be vaccinated for COVID-19 on the Medical Campus? Employees are encouraged to share their vaccine stories on social media using the hashtag #WashUMyBestShot. You can find signs for social media in this folder on Box.

Do your part to slow the spread
This poster from the BJC employee safety campaign urges everyone to eat lunch alone to slow the spread of coronavirus. The complete series of posters is available for downloading and posting in employee-facing work areas around the Medical Campus.

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

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

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