Fauci gives COVID-19 update to School of Medicine faculty, staff, students

Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), spoke today about the state of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the Department of Medicine’s virtual, weekly...
The online talk — part of the Gerald Medoff Visiting Professor grand rounds lecture series — was free and open to the general public but geared toward Washington University and BJC HealthCare employees, residents, fellows and students.

As part of his remarks titled “Insights into the COVID-19 Pandemic,” Fauci answered questions about many aspects of the outbreak. He highlighted the extreme difficulty of the current situation across the country but also emphasized the hope spurred by the ongoing distribution of effective vaccines.

“Having been gripped by this pandemic for close to a year, the numbers of cases and deaths are so extraordinary that we’ve almost become numb to them,” Fauci said. “On the other hand, there is light at the end of the tunnel with the available vaccines, the development of which has set new records. As we move into April, if we get 100 million people vaccinated in 100 days, the way President-elect Biden wants to do, I think we’ll start to see some impact on the dynamics of the outbreak."

Moderating the discussion were Washington University’s Vicky Fraser, MD, the Adolphus Busch Professor and head of the Department of Medicine, and William Powderly, MD, the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine, co-director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, assistant dean for clinical and translational research, the Larry J. Shapiro Director of the Institute for Public Health, and director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences.

A recording of the presentation is available on YouTube. For more information on Grand Rounds, visit the Department of Medicine website. Read in this St. Louis Post-Dispatch story how WUSM secured the nation’s most popular infectious disease expert for its grand rounds lecture.

Vaccine rollout continues

Vaccine appointment invitations have been completed for all patient-facing team members.

BJC HealthCare and the School of Medicine have identified “patient-facing” as all personnel
with prolonged patient interaction, including clinical staff and nonclinical staff such as environmental services, food services, patient access, public safety, etc.

As of Wednesday, Jan. 6, more than 41,300 emails have been distributed. To date, over 22,000 appointments have been scheduled, and more than 18,600 School of Medicine and BJC personnel have been vaccinated. Second-dose appointments are also now under way.

**Haven't scheduled your vaccine appointment yet?**

Patient-facing personnel who intend to be vaccinated but have not yet scheduled an appointment are strongly encouraged to do so, in preparation for the next phase of vaccination scheduling in alignment with state guidelines. It’s important that you’ve had an opportunity to receive the vaccine before vaccination becomes available to the next wave of recipients in the groups outlined by state health departments. While BJC expects to have some ongoing inventory, supply could become less predictable or more limited once the first wave of patient-facing caregiver vaccinations is complete, which is projected to happen by January 31.

**Thank you to everyone who responded to the urgent need for staffing support at these vital vaccination clinics.**

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**Dean delivers message of thanks, hope in year-end video**
“We are used to being on the frontiers of science and medical care, bringing skill and compassion to our greatest challenges,” said Dean David H. Perlmutter, MD, reflecting on the past year at the School of Medicine. “This is where we shine.”

Add a “COVID-19 Vaccinated!” frame to your Facebook profile photo

Washington University “COVID-19 Vaccinated!” Facebook profile photo frames are now available. Visit Facebook and search “WUSTL vaccine” to add the design to your profile.

Vaccinations under way on Medical Campus
Rakhee Bhayani, MD, takes a selfie while Ryan Fields, MD, gives her the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

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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

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For Medical Campus updates, visit [covid19.med.wustl.edu](http://covid19.med.wustl.edu)

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address book.