Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

62 inpatients confirmed positive  5 admitted, awaiting test results

WashU reinstates indoor mask requirement

Washington University has reinstated its indoor mask requirement for the Danforth and Medical campuses consistent with the city and county mandates that went into effect July 26, 2021. **Masks are again required at indoor**
gatherings for everyone, regardless of vaccination status or the size of a meeting or gathering. Masks are not required inside a private office or room with the door closed, or while eating or drinking with appropriate (six-foot) physical distance. Masks are encouraged but not required for outdoor activities.

The university’s masking guidelines are consistent with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), released Tuesday.

For additional details, please visit the Campus Safety Procedures page on the WashU Med coronavirus website.

COVID-19 testing available free of charge after exposure

Washington University has updated its COVID-19 testing guidelines, in accordance with new guidance from the CDC for those who are vaccinated.

Those who have had a significant exposure — been unmasked within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes — should call the BJC/WashU Med employee hotline for COVID-19 exposure or illness at 314-362-5056 to report the exposure and arrange for testing. Those who are vaccinated should receive COVID-19 testing three to seven days after exposure; those who are unvaccinated should receive testing five to seven days after an exposure.

COVID-19 Exposure Notifications system launches for WashU community
Washington University is launching a smartphone system that can anonymously alert users when they have been near another user who has tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. The system, called MO/Notify, is being launched with approval of the state of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Health and uses the Exposure Notifications system provided by Google and Apple.

WashU Med’s Institute for Informatics has led its design and deployment, working with the tech giants to make it available to students, faculty and staff and integrate it into the university’s student health and occupational health services.

“Quick notification can have a huge impact on the dynamics of a pandemic, especially as we continue to re-open our university and need to keep tabs on new variants and their impact on our campus community,” said Philip R.O. Payne, PhD, the institute’s director, who is also the school’s chief data scientist and associate dean for health information and data science.

Learn how to get the MO/Notify app on your phone.

Mask mandates return to St. Louis
On Monday leaders in St. Louis city and county reinstated mask mandates in response to rising COVID-19 case numbers in the area, driven by the fast-spreading delta variant.

The mandates require everyone 5 and older — regardless of vaccination status — to wear masks in indoor public places and on public transportation. Wearing a mask outside, especially in group settings, is strongly encouraged. Exceptions are allowed for people who are seated in a restaurant or bar eating and drinking, and for individuals with disabilities that prevent them from masking.

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**Metro Transit continues to require masks for all riders**

Masks or face coverings continue to be required for all vaccinated and unvaccinated Metro Transit riders. The mask policy remains in effect to protect passengers and team members while they are on the transit system, and to
comply with the federal face mask requirement from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

For your safety and the safety of others, you must wear a mask when approaching the steps from Euclid Plaza to the MetroLink platform at the Central West End station, and when walking on the ramp between the station platform and the MetroBus area in the garage. Your mask must remain on during your time on the platform, as well as during your entire commute on public transit.

Visit the [Metro website](https://www.metrostlouis.org) for more information about its efforts to keep riders safe.

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**Podcast: Pregnant women, new moms and vaccines**

In the latest episode of the "Show Me the Science" podcast, we hear from a pair of WashU Med physicians — one who works in labor and delivery and another who recently gave birth to her second child. Obstetrician Ebony Boyce Carter, MD, and dermatologist Heather Jones, MD, discuss how they have tried to protect themselves, their babies and their patients from COVID-19.

Carter says vaccine hesitancy is common in pregnant women, despite their heightened risk for serious complications from COVID-19. “And I always tell
patients, ‘I'm not trying to scare you because the absolute numbers of people that happens to are relatively low, but your risk is much higher. So when you take that known huge risk with COVID versus the small theoretical risk associated with a vaccine, I would take my chances with a vaccine any day,” she said.

St. Louis County enlists WashU Med pediatrician in vaccination campaign

Sarah Garwood, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics at WashU Med, was featured in a St. Louis County campaign to get people vaccinated. As county vaccination rates fall behind and COVID-19 patients increase, she urges parents of teenagers to protect them with the vaccine.

“I am the mother of a 13-year-old and a 16-year-old, and as soon as those vaccines were available for my teenagers, I got them vaccinated as quickly as I could,” she said.

WashU Med pediatrician debunks vaccine myths
U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, recently issued a warning that misinformation and myths about COVID-19 vaccines are costing lives. In a KSDK story, doctors debunked some of the false information. Jason Newland, MD, professor of pediatrics, said it’s a myth that you don’t need a vaccine if you already have had COVID-19. “You have natural protection for a bit,” he said. However, he said, the vaccine is likely giving you even better protection.
Important numbers and links

- Call the BJC/WashU Med 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 WashU Med employee and student testing data
- Email story ideas and requests to heroes@wustl.edu

For Medical Campus updates, visit covid19.med.wustl.edu »

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