

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Aug. 18, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

85 inpatients confirmed

6 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

11 inpatients confirmed

3 suspected

WashU Med

Active cases

32 employees (0 hospitalized)

1 student (not hospitalized)

Vaccination compliance

As of Aug. 18, 2021, **97%** of employees and **98%** of students are in compliance with the university's [vaccination policy](#).

Key announcements

At a glance

- **Employees exempt from vaccination** will be required to undergo COVID-19 testing every other week, beginning Sept. 1. More details to come.
- **Domestic, work-related travel** is still allowed at WashU Med. Visit covid19.med.wustl.edu for the [latest travel policies](#).
- **Campus shuttles:** The 10-passenger employee shuttle limit has been re-implemented to maintain appropriate social distancing. Masks are required on shuttles.
- **Dining indoors:** Eating is only allowed in dining spaces; when alone in private indoor spaces; and in conference rooms, classrooms and auditoriums if six-foot distancing can be maintained. [Full policy details](#) are posted on the covid19.med.wustl.edu website.
- **Masking at outdoor events:** Masking is not required for outdoor events but is strongly encouraged if in close quarters outdoors.



Third-dose vaccine eligibility update for immune-compromised patients

As announced late last week, the FDA has expanded the emergency use authorization (EUA) to allow some immune-compromised patients to receive a third dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. Patients are eligible if they have one

of the following medical conditions:

- Active treatment for cancer
- Solid-organ (e.g. kidney, liver, heart, lung, liver) transplant
- Stem cell or bone marrow transplant
- Severe primary immunodeficiency condition
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection (CD4 < 200)
- Active/ongoing treatment with medications that suppress the immune system

Third-dose vaccines are available through BJC HealthCare public vaccine sites. Online appointment scheduling is expected later this week.

U.S. health officials announce third-dose vaccine will be available for Pfizer, Moderna recipients this fall

U.S. health officials announced today that a third COVID-19 shot will be available beginning the week of Sept. 20 for all Americans who were fully vaccinated with either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. The recommendation arises out of concern over the delta variant surge and data suggesting immune protection from vaccination may fade over time. Individuals would receive this third shot — of their original vaccine — about eight months after receiving their second dose. Details regarding third doses for WashU Med employees and students will be forthcoming.

Volunteers needed at BJC public vaccination clinics

Volunteers with Epic access are needed at the BJC public vaccination clinics to serve as clinical-staff, schedulers or patient service representatives. Volunteers are most needed at the Clayton Avenue Building on the Medical Campus and at Christian Hospital. [Sign up or learn more](#) about dates, times and locations of open shifts.

Work-related travel guidance for house staff

The Office of Graduate Medical Education has released new travel guidance for house staff. Under the policy, house staff are permitted to travel within the United States under certain circumstances for presenting at conferences and for electives. Standard approval processes apply. [The complete policy](#) is available on the gme.wustl.edu website.

Other news

[Some parents plead for mask mandates in Jefferson and St. Charles County schools](#) (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Aug. 17, 2021)

- WashU pediatric infectious diseases specialist Jason Newland, MD, says that mask mandates play a key role in preventing the spread of the virus and can keep schools safe, even during surges.

[Antibodies elicited by COVID-19 vaccination effective against delta variant](#)

(WashU Med News, Aug. 17, 2021)

- The findings, from the lab of Ali Ellebedy, PhD, help explain why vaccinated people are at low risk of becoming seriously ill if breakthrough infections occur during the delta surge.

Resources

- [Online screening tool](#)
- [Screening stations](#)
- Exposure & illness hotline: 314-362-5056
- Work-life support/Employee Assistance Program (24/7): 844-365-4587
- [BJC COVID-19 policies & procedures](#)
- [Washington University Physicians COVID-19 policies & procedures](#)
- [Medical Campus policies & updates](#)

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