

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Aug. 26, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

70 inpatients confirmed

3 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

7 inpatients confirmed

5 suspected

WashU Med

Active cases

30 employees (0 hospitalized)

5 students (0 hospitalized)

[Vaccination policy](#) compliance

99% of employees

99% of students

Key announcements

Get exposure alerts on your smartphone with MO/Notify

Washington University is encouraging faculty, students and staff to use MO/Notify, a smartphone system that is being piloted at WashU and can anonymously alert users when they have been near another user who has tested positive for COVID-19. Find easy instructions on monotify.com.

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.

Continue to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines

WashU Med's COVID-19 safety guidelines are in place to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and visitors. Among them:

- Follow current [masking and distancing guidelines](#)
 - Masks are required indoors, regardless of vaccination status except when:
 - Alone in a private office or enclosed space, or
 - Eating or drinking, while allowing six feet of distance from other individuals
 - Please note: Masks are now required in open office settings such as cubicles. This is a change from previous guidance.
 - Masks are encouraged but not required for outdoor activities, particularly at large events or in crowded settings.
- Complete the [self screening](#) every day before coming to campus
- Stay home if you're not feeling well
- Report even mild symptoms to the COVID-19 Call Center at 314-362-5056

Reminder: Provide proof of full vaccination by Aug. 30

The university's vaccination policy requires all employees, students and trainees to provide proof of full vaccination by Aug. 30. If you were vaccinated through the university, no action is required. If you were vaccinated elsewhere, including a BJC public clinic, you must upload a picture or scan of your COVID-19 vaccination record in [ReadySet](#).

- [View ReadySet instructions »](#)
- [Find more details »](#)

Employees exempt from vaccination will be required to undergo COVID-19 testing every other week, beginning Sept. 1.



FDA grants full approval to Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

On Monday the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [granted full approval](#) to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 16 and older. The vaccine, which will be marketed as Comirnaty, also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 12 through 15 years old and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

- [Schedule vaccination for yourself or your dependents »](#)
- [Learn more about third doses for immunocompromised individuals »](#)

Other news

- [St. Louis Public School District unanimously approves vaccine mandate among all employees](#) (Fox2 News, Aug. 24, 2021)
 - Clay Dunagan, MD, St. Louis Pandemic Task Force leader, WashU Med infectious diseases physician, and chief clinical officer for BJC HealthCare, says schools that implement precautions, such as masking, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, can keep kids in the classroom safely.
 - [Nurse who lost baby to COVID-19 highlights risks for pregnancies](#) (NBC News, Aug. 21, 2021)
 - WashU Med obstetrician Marta Perez, MD, discusses the heightened risk COVID-19 poses to expectant mothers like BJC nurse Vanessa Alfermann, who lost her baby after contracting the virus before vaccines were available.
 - [Antibody protects against broad range of COVID-19 virus variants](#) (WashU Med News, Aug. 20, 2021)
 - Researchers led by Michael S. Diamond, MD, PhD, have identified an antibody that is highly protective against a wide range of COVID-19's variants, a discovery that could lead to new therapies that are less likely to lose their potency as the virus mutates.
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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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