

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Sept. 2, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

57 inpatients confirmed

0 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

15 inpatients confirmed

3 suspected

WashU Med

Active cases

24 employees (0 hospitalized)

3 students (0 hospitalized)

[Vaccination policy](#) compliance

100% of employees

100% of students



Key announcements

CDC warns the unvaccinated against Labor Day weekend travel

On Wednesday the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [urged unvaccinated Americans not to travel](#) during the Labor Day weekend as COVID-19 cases surge across the country, fueled by the fast-spreading delta variant. The agency also said fully vaccinated travelers should consider current transmission rates and COVID-19 risk when deciding whether to travel.

Bi-weekly surveillance testing required for vaccine-exempt employees

Employees who have an approved medical or religious exemption are required to complete COVID-19 surveillance testing every other week. These individuals will receive more details on the testing process via email.

Update on booster shots

Although there are many news reports related to COVID-19 vaccine booster shots, as of now, only immune compromised individuals are recommended to get a third dose of vaccine. Qualifying medical conditions are available on the [CDC website](#). Third-dose appointments for those who are eligible are available through BJC's [public vaccine clinics](#). There is no official CDC/FDA recommendation for booster shots for anyone else yet. BJC is following the current guidance in its vaccine clinics. When a formal recommendation is made, we will provide information about timing and access.

U.S. travelers removed from EU's safe list as cases surge

On Monday the European Union (EU) recommended that its 27 nations reinstate restrictions on tourists from the U.S. because of rising coronavirus infections here. For details on international travel, read the university's [Return to Travel Resources](#). For questions, contact itoc@wustl.edu.

Volunteers needed at BJC public vaccination clinics

Volunteers with Epic access are needed at the BJC HealthCare 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.

Other news

Help us improve the COVID-19 Update

Thank you for reading the WashU Med COVID-19 Update. We'd like to hear what you think about it. If you have 90 seconds to share your thoughts, [please complete this anonymous survey](#).

Early COVID-19 shutdowns helped St. Louis area avoid thousands of deaths

An analysis by Elvin Geng, MD, suggests that implementing emergency public health orders in March 2020 likely saved thousands of lives in the St. Louis region. ([WashU Med News, Sept. 1, 2021](#))

Podcast: Vaccines and COVID-19 infection generate protective antibodies, even against delta

This episode of 'Show Me the Science' focuses on the work of scientist Ali Ellebedy, PhD, who has published several papers about the immune response to vaccines and COVID-19 infection. ([WashU Med News, Aug. 31, 2021](#))

COVID-19 vaccine elicits antibodies in 90% taking immunosuppressants

The findings, from a study led by Alfred Kim, MD, PhD, and Ali Ellebedy, PhD, also indicate that antibody responses were not as strong as those mounted by healthy people. ([WashU Med News, Aug. 30, 2021](#))

Media coverage

[Another hidden covid risk: lingering kidney problems](#) (New York Times, Sept. 1, 2021)

A large study of U.S. veterans by Ziyad Al-Aly, MD, indicates that COVID-19 survivors can experience kidney damage or declines in kidney function that can last for months after patients recover from their initial infections and in some cases may lead to a serious lifelong reduction of kidney function.

Resources

- [MO/Notify](#) exposure notifications
- [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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