

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Sept. 9, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

68 inpatients confirmed

2 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

11 inpatients confirmed

0 suspected

WashU Med

Active cases

11 employees

1 student

[Vaccination policy](#) compliance

(vaccinated and exempt)

100% of employees

100% of students



Key announcements

Surveillance testing required for vaccine-exempt health-care workers

WashU Med faculty, staff and trainees working in Missouri who have approved vaccine exemptions are required to undergo regular COVID-19 surveillance testing every other week.

Per Illinois mandate, vaccine-exempt health-care employees working in that state are required to undergo weekly surveillance testing.

All exempt employees will be notified via email in advance with instructions for testing.

Follow current guidelines for pre-procedural COVID-19 testing

All preprocedural patients who warrant COVID-19 testing should be tested according to current guidelines. These guidelines apply to both vaccinated and unvaccinated patients. To prevent presurgical and preprocedural patients from arriving for their procedure without having completed COVID-19 testing — and being subject to delays — they need to be tested within four days preceding their surgery or procedure. To avoid inconvenience for patients and obstacles to operational processes, please follow the [standard recommendations for testing \(PDF\)](#).

Reminder: OSHA requires daily screening of personnel in patient care areas

All WashU Med employees and trainees must continue to use the [online screening tool](#) daily. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [emergency temporary standard \(ETS\)](#) was developed to better protect workers in patient care settings from occupational exposure to COVID-19. The ETS includes a requirement for symptom screening for health-care providers prior to entering patient-care areas.

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

Mask alternatives for educators

To address concerns about effective communication during teaching in certain non-clinical situations, Washington University has developed [guidelines for and evaluations of mask alternatives \(PDF\)](#).

Help us improve the COVID-19 Update

If you haven't already taken our survey, we'd like to hear what you think about the COVID-19 Update. If you have 90 seconds to share your thoughts, [please complete this anonymous survey](#).

Media coverage

[Risk of breakthrough infections remains very rare, 3 studies find](#) (NBC News, Sept. 1, 2021)

No vaccine is 100% effective. "Vaccines are like a guard dog," said WashU Med's Rachel Presti, MD, an infectious disease physician, noting that a guard dog will ward off most burglaries, but it's possible that a thief could still manage to sneak by.

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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