

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Oct. 14, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

37 inpatients confirmed

2 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

3 inpatients confirmed

1 suspected

WashU Med

Active cases

10 employees

3 students

Key announcements



Reminder: Influenza vaccination required by Nov. 19

The influenza vaccine is an important proactive measure to help protect members of the WashU community and the public at large and to reduce the burdens on health-care systems anticipated during the coming months from influenza and COVID-19 illnesses. All WashU employees, including faculty, staff and trainees, [are required to receive this year's influenza vaccination](#) and upload documentation to ReadySet by Nov. 19, unless granted an exemption for medical reasons or religious beliefs. Students and contractors have a similar requirement.

Visit flu.wustl.edu for additional influenza policy information, vaccine FAQs, instructions for submitting documentation, exemption forms and more.

Volunteers needed at influenza vaccination clinics

Volunteers are needed at the influenza vaccination clinics for WashU employees located at the Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC) on the Medical Campus and at the Gary M. Summers Recreation Center (Athletic Center) on the Danforth Campus. Morning (7:30 a.m. – noon) and afternoon shifts (noon – 3 p.m.) are available. [Sign up or learn more](#) about dates, times and locations of open shifts.

Other news

[Antiviral compound blocks SARS-CoV-2 from entering cells](#) (WashU Med News, Oct. 11, 2021)

Scientists at WashU Med have developed a compound that prevents SARS-CoV-2

from entering cells, and they are collaborating with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to test the compound in animal models of COVID-19.

[5 questions with Dr. Hilary Babcock](#) (BJC HealthCare, Oct. 7, 2021)

In a new video, WashU Med infectious diseases expert Hilary Babcock, MD, MPH, answers questions about who should receive the COVID-19 boosters and whether it's safe to receive a booster and a flu shot at the same time.

Media coverage

['We're certainly going in the right direction!' St. Louis-area COVID-19 case rates dropping, task force says](#) (STL Today, Oct. 13, 2021)

Barring the emergence of a new variant, or an uptick due to the colder weather, case rates in the region could dip to levels similar to those seen in June, said Clay Dunagan, MD, head of the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force, BJC HealthCare's chief clinical officer, and WashU Med infectious diseases specialist.

[Pfizer asks FDA to authorize its COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11](#) (New York Times, Oct. 12, 2021)

Pfizer has submitted a request to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval of its COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. The agency is expected to schedule a meeting in late October to review the data and begin discussions.

[Merck asks U.S. FDA to authorize promising anti-COVID pill](#) (STL Today, Oct. 11, 2021)

Merck has requested emergency use authorization from the FDA for an anti-COVID-19 pill. It would become the first antiviral pill to effectively reduce symptoms and speed recovery in those with mild to moderate illness who are at risk for severe disease or hospitalization.





[Get the candy bowl ready. Dr. Fauci says Halloween is a go this year](#) (NPR, Oct. 12, 2021)

With coronavirus cases declining in the U.S., top infectious-disease expert Anthony Fauci says children can safely enjoy outdoor trick-or-treating this year.

Resources

- [MO/Notify](#) exposure notifications
- [Online screening tool](#)
- 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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