

## WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Oct. 21, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

### Our numbers

#### COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

34 inpatients confirmed

3 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

3 inpatients confirmed

1 suspected

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#### WashU Med

Active cases

13 employees

2 students

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### Key announcements





## FDA authorizes booster doses of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, mixing and matching

The [decision by the Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) on Wednesday to authorize booster doses of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines — and allow a mix-and-match approach for all three available vaccines — will greatly expand the number of Americans eligible for booster shots.

The Johnson & Johnson booster was authorized for anyone 18 and over.

Moderna's eligibility standards mirror that of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine: people 65 and older, or adults at risk of severe illness or complications because of underlying medical conditions or exposure on the job.

The mix-and-match approach allows an individual to receive a booster dose from a different manufacturer than the vaccine they previously received. The additional booster shots could start to be given by the end of the week, pending a meeting of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advisers and a decision by the agency's director.

Booster vaccination appointments are readily available at most public clinics or retail pharmacies. Currently, WashU Med Occupational Health is focused on providing required influenza vaccinations and has very limited capacity for administering booster doses.

For more information, please visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

## 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 (noon – 3 p.m.) shifts are available. [Sign up or learn more](#) about dates, times and locations of open shifts.

## 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.



Influenza vaccination clinics are being held in the Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC) on the Medical Campus and in the Gary M. Summers Recreation Center (Athletic Complex) on the Danforth Campus. Appointments are required and can be [scheduled online](#). You may also schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine through [WUCare](#), your primary care provider or a local retail pharmacy.

Visit [flu.wustl.edu](http://flu.wustl.edu) for additional influenza policy information, vaccine FAQs, instructions for submitting documentation, exemption forms and more.

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## Other news

[Podcast: Remaining resilient while the pandemic drags on](#) (WashU Med News, Oct. 21, 2021)

WashU Med psychiatrist Eric Lenze, MD, and child psychologist Neha Navsaria Kirtane, PhD, discuss the effects of the lingering pandemic on groups particularly vulnerable to stress — older adults and young children.

## Media coverage

[Can I get a flu shot and a Covid-19 booster at the same time?](#) (Wall Street Journal, Oct. 18, 2021)

WashU Med infectious diseases specialist Rachel Presti, MD, PhD, says it's OK to get a COVID-19 vaccine and a flu vaccine on the same day, noting that the two vaccines don't interact with one another but can make for sore arms.

[How accurate are at-home COVID tests?](#) (FOX2 News, Oct. 14, 2021)

Bill Powderly, MD, co-director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, says at-home COVID-19 tests are most accurate when a patient has symptoms and that such tests can help keep families safe during the winter as people spend more time indoors or travel to visit relatives.

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## 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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