

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Nov. 4, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

36 inpatients confirmed

4 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

5 inpatients confirmed

1 suspected

WashU Med

Active cases

9 employees

1 student

Key announcements

Updated campus activity guidance effective Nov. 5

WashU Med health experts continue to evaluate COVID-19 safety precautions in order to keep our campus community healthy. Please read the updated activity guidelines effective Nov. 5 on the [WashU Med coronavirus website](#).



CDC recommends Pfizer vaccine for children 5 to 11 years

On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) formally recommended [the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine](#) to children ages 5 to 11. The agency's decision expands vaccine availability to about 28 million children in the U.S. and allows providers to begin vaccinating them as soon as possible. The CDC estimates that every million doses given to children ages 5 to 11 would prevent about 58,000 cases and 226 hospitalizations in this group. Further, vaccinating these children is expected to prevent about 600,000 new cases among all age groups from November 2021 to March 2022.

The official sign-off by CDC director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, was the last major regulatory step in the authorization process. It followed last week's endorsement by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and a unanimous vote by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to recommend the vaccine for pediatric use.

BJC vaccine appointments now available for kids

Parents and legal guardians can schedule the Pfizer vaccine for kids ages 5-17 through BJC HealthCare/Washington University Physicians [by following this link](#). Vaccination appointments are available at various locations, and minor children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Appointments are limited, but additional vaccine resources — including those for retail pharmacies and health departments — are available at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

Occupational Health offering employee booster clinic

Occupational Health is offering a COVID-19 booster clinic in the Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC) this Friday, Nov. 5, and next week, Nov. 8-12. All WashU Med faculty, staff, residents, fellows and postdocs who received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least six months prior, or the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least two months prior, are eligible. Please [sign up online](#).

Volunteers needed for pediatric vaccination clinics

Volunteers are needed to staff the pediatric vaccination clinics beginning Nov. 8. For any shift performed **during an individual's normal working hours**, the employee will be paid as normal. Any time away from normal duties must be approved in advance by the volunteer's manager.

For any shift performed **outside of the individual's normal working hours**, such as a weekend shift, the employee will be paid as follows:

- Hourly staff member: regular pay up to 40 hours and 1.5 pay for hours over 40.
 - Hourly staff must clock in through WorkDay and sign in on the sign-in sheet at their clinic.
- Salaried staff member, clinical: \$250 bonus.
 - Salaried staff (including NPs, PAs) only need to sign in on the sign-in sheet.
- Salaried staff member, non-clinical: \$200 bonus.
 - Salaried staff only need to sign in on the sign-in sheet.
- Physicians/fellows/residents are also welcome to sign up but will not receive supplemental pay.

Please [sign up online](#) using the Chrome browser.

Other news

[Podcast: Vaccines approved for younger kids](#) (WashU Med News, Nov. 3, 2021)

Infectious diseases specialist Jason Newland, MD, says that the approval will result in fewer hospitalizations for children and better protection for the adults with whom they live.

[Bridging the COVID-19 funding gap](#) (Outlook magazine, Autumn 2021)

Donations from a group of dedicated supporters and community leaders supporting WashU Med faculty research have yielded important COVID-19 breakthroughs.

[Common antidepressant slashes risk of COVID death](#) (Nature, Oct. 29, 2021)

A cheap, widely available antidepressant cuts the risk of death and the need for hospitalization among people with COVID-19, according to results of a clinical trial co-authored by WashU Med psychiatrists Angela Riersen, MD, and Eric Lenze, MD, and published in The Lancet Global Health.

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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