

## WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Nov. 11, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

### Our numbers

#### COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

35 inpatients confirmed

2 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

3 inpatients confirmed

6 suspected

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#### WashU Med

Active cases

9 employees

0 students

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### Key announcements

## Updated campus activity guidance effective Nov. 5

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



## CDC releases tips for celebrating holidays safely

In its [updated guidance on celebrating the holidays safely](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get fully vaccinated. Other tips include:

- Do not visit others or host events if you are sick.
- Wear a well-fitted mask in high-risk indoor spaces.
- Consider taking a rapid test (available at most pharmacies) the day of gatherings.
- Practice caution around people who are immunocompromised.
- Follow [safety recommendations for traveling](#).

## Pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations underway in children ages 5 to 11

Roughly one million U.S. children ages 5-11 have received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine since [the CDC's formal recommendation](#) last week. WashU Med and BJC HealthCare began administering the vaccine to this age group on Tuesday.

Parents and legal guardians can [schedule appointments online](#) for the Pfizer vaccine for kids ages 5-17 through BJC/WashU Med. Vaccination appointments are available at various locations, with new times on campus added for Monday. 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 [vaccinatestl.org](#) and [vaccines.gov](#).

## Volunteers needed for BJC community vaccination clinics

Volunteers are needed to staff BJC community clinics administering COVID-19 and flu vaccines. 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.

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## Other news

### [Antidepressant may prevent severe COVID-19, follow-up study indicates](#)

(WashU Med News, Nov. 9, 2021)

Researchers from WashU Med and from Canada and Brazil have found that a common, low-cost antidepressant may prevent some of the most serious complications of COVID-19.

### [Living with COVID](#) (Outlook magazine, Autumn 2021)

Insights into human biology and behavior gleaned from this extraordinary time will stay with us, informing medical care as we all adapt to the new normal.

## Media coverage

### [Pandemic evolving, task force chief says, as Missouri logs an uptick in COVID-19 cases](#) (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Nov. 10, 2021)

Clay Dunagan, MD, a WashU Med infectious disease specialist and acting head of the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force, said a recent increase in case numbers in Missouri suggests that COVID-19 is evolving into an endemic virus that's going to have periodic surges.

### [COVID-19 vaccines for kids are rolling out, but school policies won't change as quickly](#) (St. Louis Public Radio, Nov. 8, 2021)

While 5- to 11-year-olds now are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines, it's still too soon to forgo masking and social distancing in schools, said WashU Med pediatric infectious diseases specialist Jason Newland, MD, who suggested that districts monitor community spread, vaccination rates in schools and COVID-19 transmission in schools as they consider changes to health policies.

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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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