

## WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Dec. 2, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

### Our numbers

#### COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

52 inpatients confirmed

0 suspected

St. Louis Children's Hospital

5 inpatients confirmed

2 suspected

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#### WashU Med

Active cases

33 employees

1 student

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### Key announcements



Casey, a therapy dog at St. Louis Children's Hospital, comforts Alex High, age 5, as he receives the COVID-19 vaccine at a clinic held Wednesday.

## CDC recommends COVID-19 booster for all vaccinated adults

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [strengthened its COVID-19 vaccine booster recommendation](#) amid concerns about the Omicron variant, saying all adults age 18 and older should receive a booster six months after the second dose of Pfizer/BioNTech's or Moderna's vaccine or two months after the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

WashU Med faculty, staff, fellows and postdocs can schedule an appointment to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 booster at the Occupational Health office by emailing [occupationalhealth@wustl.edu](mailto:occupationalhealth@wustl.edu) or calling 314-362-3528. To receive the booster at a BJC HealthCare public clinic, please [schedule an appointment online](#). Individuals are not required to receive their COVID-19 booster vaccination at the same location that they received their first series of the vaccine, and they can also receive a booster dose from a different manufacturer than the vaccine they previously received.

## Mandatory flu vaccine policy deadline extended to Dec. 10

All WashU employees are required to receive this year's influenza vaccination and upload documentation to ReadySet. To prevent disruption of services, the deadline has been extended to 5 p.m. on Dec. 10. Exemptions for medical or religious reasons will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Dec. 3. Please note that those who do not provide their vaccine documentation by Dec. 10 will be placed on unpaid suspension as previously stated in the [flu vaccination policy](#).

Visit [flu.wustl.edu](http://flu.wustl.edu) for more information, including [step-by-step instructions \(PDF\)](#) to upload your vaccine proof in [ReadySet](#).

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## Other news

### FLTC Kaldi's open with limited menu

The Kaldi's Coffee located in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center (FLTC) reopened Tuesday. It will be open from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Monday – Friday. Initially, the food, bakery and drink menu will be limited. Online ordering will open in early December. The Mid Campus Center (MCC) location remains open with a full menu from 5:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. For additional information, contact Lacey Luitjohan at [luitjohan@wustl.edu](mailto:luitjohan@wustl.edu).

## Media coverage

### [A reason for optimism on Omicron: Our immune systems are not blank slates](#)

(STAT News, Dec. 1, 2021)

WashU Med immunologist Ali Ellebedy, PhD, said people who have been vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 should have some immune protection from the Omicron variant.

### [Delta variant still a threat despite concerns over Omicron, health experts say](#)

(FOX2, Nov. 29, 2021)

While health experts learn more about the Omicron variant, the public shouldn't lose sight of the importance of the Delta variant and how it affects those who haven't been vaccinated, said Steve Lawrence, MD, WashU Med infectious diseases specialist.

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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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