

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

Dec. 16, 2021

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital

75 inpatients confirmed

St. Louis Children's Hospital

10 inpatients confirmed

WashU Med

Active cases

22 employees

1 student

The next COVID-19 Update is planned for Thursday, Jan. 6. During the hiatus, track WashU Med student and employee active cases on the [WashU Med coronavirus website](#).

Key announcements



WashU Med strongly encourages vaccine boosters

Although not currently required, WashU Med strongly recommends that all vaccinated faculty, staff and trainees receive a booster, in accordance with the [latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). If you receive a vaccine booster outside of the Medical Campus, please submit documentation in [ReadySet](#):

1. Take a picture or scan your COVID-19 proof of vaccination. Please save the file in one of the extension formats: pdf, png, jpg, jpeg, txt, doc, docx, tif, tiff
2. Log in to your ReadySet account and go to the “My Health” tab. For a better experience, using Google Chrome is recommended.
3. Choose “Documents” from the side navigation and then click “Upload Document.”
4. Click “Select a File” to upload the document.
5. Name the file in the “Document Name” field. A good name is COVID Booster.
6. Select “Document Type” and “COVID-19 Vaccination.”

For help finding a vaccine near you, [visit the CDC website](#).

Employees with COVID-19 symptoms required to stay home, call Occupational Health hotline

COVID-19 infections among WashU Med employees have risen in recent weeks, with nearly all related to exposures at home or in the community. All employees reporting to campus should continue using the [online screening tool](#) daily to monitor for [COVID-19 symptoms](#). These symptoms can be mild and seemingly benign, particularly among vaccinated individuals who become infected. **If you are experiencing any symptoms, you are required to:**

- Stay home. Leave your workplace if your symptoms develop at work.
- Begin [isolating](#) immediately.
- Notify your supervisor.
- Call the COVID-19 Exposure/Illness Hotline at 314-362-5056 to arrange for testing, and follow the instructions you receive.
- If you test positive, you must isolate for 10 days from symptom onset.

Learn more about WashU Med's [exposure and illness procedures](#).

BJC vaccine clinic moving to Center for Advanced Medicine

Starting in January, the BJC HealthCare vaccine clinic at the Clayton Avenue Building (CAB) will transition to the third floor of the Center for Advanced Medicine (CAM). The final day of operation for the CAB location will be Saturday, Dec. 18. The new CAM location, for the public and employees, will open on Tuesday, Jan. 4, and will thereafter be open Monday – Friday for scheduled appointments from 7:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., and for walk-ins from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. for patients ages 18 and older. Please [schedule an appointment online](#).

Court ruling does not impact WashU Med masking requirements

A recent court ruling banning mask mandates by health departments and school districts in Missouri does not impact private businesses, organizations or entities, including health-care systems. WashU Med continues to require that all visitors, patients, staff, learners and faculty wear masks inside all facilities. Masks provide protection against virus transmission, which is especially critical in health-care settings to protect vulnerable and at-risk populations.

[Read full mask requirements »](#)

Celebrate the holidays safely

WashU Med wishes a happy — and healthy — holiday season for our campus community. As we prepare to come together with others to celebrate traditions and create memories, take steps to keep your family, friends, and larger community safe by preventing the spread of COVID-19. See [guidance from the CDC](#) for tips on safer holiday celebrations.

Please adhere to [guidelines for events and meetings](#) when planning or attending a holiday gathering on the Medical Campus.

Limited monoclonal antibody therapy guidelines

Demand for monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapy has exceeded capacity at BJC's clinics. To triage patients, orders will be limited to qualifying high-risk patients who have a positive COVID-19 test. Clinics will cease accepting patients for post-exposure prophylaxis at this time. For information on mAb antibody eligibility and ordering, please [visit the BJC website](#).

Outpatient pediatric visitor policy change

The current visitor policy allows two visitors for pediatric inpatients. Starting Monday, Dec. 20, the policy will expand to allow two visitors for pediatric patients in outpatient and ambulatory clinic settings as well. The visitor policy team continues to evaluate community infection trends and hospital capacity and staffing needs, and will consider adjustments to the policy as needed.

Other news

[CDC expands COVID-19 booster recommendations to 16- and 17-year-olds](#) (CDC, Dec. 9, 2021)

The CDC is encouraging everyone 16 and older to receive a booster shot, citing initial data that suggests boosters help broaden and strengthen the protection against Omicron and other variants of COVID-19. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster is authorized for adolescents aged 16 and 17.

Media coverage

['We are on a very dangerous slope right now,' as COVID-19 hospitalizations rise](#) (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Dec. 15, 2021)

If current trends continue, hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients in the St. Louis area could surpass records set last winter by Jan. 1, according to St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force co-leaders Clay Dunagan, MD, of BJC HealthCare and Washington University School of Medicine and Alex Garza, MD, of SSM Health.

Med students enjoy sweet stress relief



First-year medical students Amdiel Clement, left, Haewon Shin, center, and Kate Wardenburg joined classmates in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center (FLTC) for a gingerbread house building session to de-stress from studying for exams.

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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