

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital	119 inpatients confirmed
St. Louis Children's Hospital	17 inpatients confirmed

WashU Med

Active cases	38 employees
	1 student

Key announcements

Your COVID questions

Last week we asked you to send us your questions about vaccinations, testing, WashU Med COVID-19 policies or other ways the school is responding to the pandemic. This week's answers were provided by Eva Aagaard, MD, interim director of Occupational Health, and Steven Lawrence, MD, infectious diseases specialist. For questions about your personal medical situation, please consult your physician.



When should one receive the booster after having COVID?

You can get boosted as early as 10 days after infection and should get boosted within 30 days if at all possible.

Why is WashU Med still requiring masks when we are all vaccinated?

A decision to change the masking requirement will depend on the level of community transmission, which is currently high. Also, the omicron variant has the ability to infect those who are fully vaccinated and boosted, although they are very unlikely to become seriously ill. This means that they can get and spread COVID-19.

When community transmission is lower, we will be able to pull back masking requirements. As long as there are isolation and quarantine requirements for cases, we want to create a work environment where transmission is extremely unlikely.

Many immune compromised patients received boosters in early to mid-fall 2021. Is it recommended to get an additional booster in 2022? If so, how many months between boosters?

Right now there are no additional recommendations from the CDC for a second booster.

If you have a question for our WashU Med health experts, send it to covidqueries@wustl.edu.

February COVID-19 booster vaccination clinics for employees

BJC HealthCare and WashU Med employees can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 booster at a clinic being held every Friday during February from 8 a.m. – noon at the Institute of Health (IOH). The clinic is located in the Planning, Design & Construction office on the second floor, at the top of the IOH main lobby stairs. Walk-in appointments are available for WashU Med employees. Please bring your employee badge.

Additionally, employees and their family members may [schedule an appointment](#) online to receive a Pfizer/BioNTech booster at a BJC public vaccine clinic. To find other locations, or a Moderna vaccine site, visit vaccinatestl.org, or vaccines.gov. You can also text your ZIP code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations.

Other news

[Washington University participates in clinical trial of Moderna omicron booster](#) (WashU Med News, Feb. 10, 2022)

Washington University School of Medicine is participating in a nationwide phase 2 clinical trial to evaluate whether an investigational omicron-specific booster of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is safe and capable of eliciting a strong immune response. WashU Med's Rachel Presti, MD, PhD, is the local PI site leader for the trial.

[Promoting resilience in health-care workers aim of new grant](#) (WashU Med News, Feb. 8, 2022)

Researchers at WashU Med have received a federal grant that aims to reduce burnout and promote mental health and wellness among health-care workers experiencing high levels of stress due to the pandemic.

[COVID-19 infections increase risk of heart conditions up to a year later](#) (WashU Med News, Feb. 7, 2022)

A study from researchers at WashU Med and the Veterans Affairs St. Louis Health Care System indicates that people who have had COVID-19 — including previously healthy individuals and those who have had mild infections — are at increased risk of developing cardiovascular complications within the first month to a year after infection.

Resources

- [MO/Notify](#) exposure notifications
- [Online screening tool](#)
- Exposure & illness hotline: [314-362-5056](tel:314-362-5056)
- Work-life support/Employee Assistance Program (24/7): [844-365-4587](tel:844-365-4587)
- [BJC COVID-19 policies & procedures](#)
- [Washington University Physicians COVID-19 policies & procedures](#)
- [Medical Campus policies & updates](#)
- Send COVID-19 questions to covidqueries@wustl.edu