

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital	64 inpatients confirmed
St. Louis Children's Hospital	6 inpatients confirmed

WashU Med

Active cases	18 employees
	0 students

Key announcements

View via livestream: CDC director will visit WashU Med to discuss pandemic March 3

The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, will participate in [a conversation about the pandemic](#) Thursday, March 3, from 8 to 9 a.m. at WashU Med. All faculty, staff, students and trainees on the Medical Campus are invited to attend the virtual event [via a livestream](#). Members of the public may also attend. No registration is required.



Walensky, a WashU alumna, will discuss the pandemic with William Powderly, MD, the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine and co-director of the Division of Infectious Diseases. The conversation will center on domestic and global challenges facing public health officials as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and will include questions posed by Powderly. They will be joined by Victoria Fraser, MD, the Adolphus Busch Professor and head of the Department of Medicine. Viewers will not be able to submit questions.

A recording of the event will be available within 24 hours on the [School of Medicine's YouTube channel](#) and the Department of Medicine's [Grand Rounds website](#).

Asymptomatic testing resumes at 1234 S. Kingshighway site

Starting Thursday, Feb. 24, the COVID-19 testing site at 1234 S. Kingshighway will resume asymptomatic, non-exposure testing for all WashU faculty, staff, and students, and their immediate family members. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., and Friday, 7 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The cost for an asymptomatic, as-needed PCR saliva test is \$50 per test. A WUSTL key is required to [schedule testing online](#).

Please note, the Kingshighway testing site will no longer be used for testing symptomatic or exposed employees. WashU employees who are symptomatic or have been exposed to a known positive should seek testing by calling the COVID-19 Exposure/Illness Hotline at 314-362-5056.

Your COVID-19 questions

Thank you for continuing to send us your questions about vaccinations, testing, WashU Med COVID-19 policies and other ways the school is responding to the pandemic. Please keep in mind that we might not be able to answer all questions submitted. You must continue to call the COVID-19 Exposure/Illness Hotline at 314-362-5056 to report a positive test and get advice directly from Occupational Health. For questions about your personal medical situation, please consult your physician.

Is a fourth shot recommended for people who are immunocompromised?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people ages 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a total of four doses of COVID-19 vaccine. The four doses are made up of a primary series of three doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, plus one booster of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (fourth dose).

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised include those who have been receiving active cancer treatment or are taking medication to suppress the immune system. Please [visit the CDC website](#) for more information on this topic.

Is it possible to enroll in the [COVID-19 omicron booster trial](#) that was mentioned in last week's newsletter?

Yes, the trial is enrolling research participants. To learn more about the trial and eligibility requirements, please email idcru@wustl.edu or call 314-454-0058.

If you have a question for our WashU Med health experts, send it to covidqueries@wustl.edu. This mailbox is exclusively for WashU Med faculty, staff and students.

Visit the [WashU Med coronavirus website](#) for the latest policy information.

BJC loosens visitor restrictions

With the continued downward trend of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, BJC HealthCare has made adjustments to visitor restrictions. Two designated visitors for non-COVID patients are now allowed in inpatient and ICU settings. These visitors must remain the same during the day, but may change from day to day. The BJC Visitor Policy team meets regularly and is discussing a measured process to gradually introduce additional visitor accommodations in the coming weeks. For updated visitor policy information, visit the [BJC](#) and [St. Louis Children's Hospital](#) websites.

COVID-19 booster vaccination clinics on the Medical Campus

BJC and WashU Med employees can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 booster at a clinic being held Friday, Feb. 25 from 8 a.m. – noon in the BJC 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, the vaccination clinic at the Center for Advanced Medicine is accepting walk-ins from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in addition to [scheduled appointments](#) available from 8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Located on the third floor, the vaccine clinic is open Monday – Friday to employees and the general public ages 18+. BJC offers the Pfizer vaccine.

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

[What's contributing to low child vaccination rates?](#) (KSDK, Feb. 21, 2022)

WashU Med pediatric infectious disease specialist Jason Newland, MD, believes many parents are taking a “wait and see approach” because COVID-19 vaccines are relatively new, but he emphasizes that we'd know by now if the vaccines were going to have widespread dangerous side effects. “Millions and millions of doses have been given, and we know that's not happening,” he said.

[Got a Covid Booster? You Probably Won't Need Another for a Long Time](#) (The New York Times, Feb. 21, 2022)

New studies by WashU Med's Ali Ellebedy, PhD, and other researchers suggest that most people who have had COVID-19 boosters won't need another one for months or perhaps years because the immune system can mount a sustained, potent response to the virus' variants.

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](#)
- COVID-19 questions: covidqueries@wustl.edu