

Our numbers

COVID-19 hospitalizations

Barnes-Jewish Hospital	37 inpatients confirmed
St. Louis Children's Hospital	6 inpatients confirmed

WashU Med

Active cases	2 employees
	1 student

Key announcements

COVID-19 safety protocols continue to change as cases decline

After careful consideration of current COVID-19 infection rates, BJC HealthCare and WashU Med have recently refined additional safety protocols. Here are the updated guidelines:



- Asymptomatic patients who are fully vaccinated and boosted are now exempt from pre-procedural testing in both Illinois and Missouri.
- Use of the daily [screening tool](#) is recommended but no longer required.
 - Continue to stay home when sick and call the COVID-19 Exposure/Illness Hotline at 314-362-5056 for guidance if you have COVID symptoms, test positive or have a known exposure.
 - Individual units can continue to use the symptoms screener as desired for activities.
- Masks are required in the link where there are connected clinical areas and where patients or patient visitors frequent.
- Masks are required when riding campus shuttles.

Learn more about [Campus Safety Procedures](#).

WashU Med infectious diseases expert explains new masking guidance

As COVID-19 mitigation strategies are changing across the country, in the St. Louis region, and on the WashU Med campus, we know there are a lot of questions. In a [new FAQ](#), WashU Med infectious diseases expert Steve Lawrence, MD, explains the science behind the updated masking guidance in non-clinical settings and discusses how we can safely navigate this new phase of the pandemic.

Updates to visitor policy

The following updates to the visitor policy go into effect Monday, March 14:

- Patients in outpatient/surgical settings may have two dedicated visitors; children under 12 will be permitted as one of the two visitors, provided they are accompanied by a caregiver as the second visitor.
- Patients may have two visitors/support persons for clinical appointments; children under 12 will be permitted as one of the two visitors, provided they are accompanied by a caregiver as the second visitor.

Other recent visitor policy updates already in effect include:

- Two dedicated visitors for non-COVID patients in inpatient/ICU settings; visitors may change from day to day but may not swap throughout the day.
- Two dedicated visitors for COVID+ patients; visitors must remain the same for the duration of the visit.
- Non-COVID patients may have visitors during aerosol-generating procedures (AEG), at the discretion of the care team.

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.

Does WashU Med have any ongoing research looking at long COVID?

Long COVID research is an important priority for WashU Med and for the Department of Medicine in particular. Our investigators have already published landmark studies to demonstrate the magnitude of the problem and generate important hypotheses for investigation.

Long COVID requires both high-quality clinical care and rapid research to improve patient care. The [CARE Clinic](#) was designed to provide tailored care to COVID patients in tandem with our research collaborations which allow us to generate important insights into how best to care for these patients. Learn more about WashU Med's long COVID research on the [School of Medicine website](#).

I received both doses of vaccine and one booster but I am wondering if I am over 65, should I get a second booster?

At this time there is no recommendation from the CDC for a routine second booster for those who are not immunocompromised. If you have questions about whether you have a medical condition that warrants a second booster, you should contact your personal physician who understands your specific situation and risk factors.

How can I obtain a replacement vaccination card?

If you were vaccinated through WashU Med or BJC HealthCare, you can access and download your vaccine data from [ReadySet](#) or the [MyChart](#) patient portal.

This week's answers were provided by Eva Aagaard, MD, senior administrator for occupational health, Amanda Wilkins, director of occupational health, and Maureen Lyons, MD, assistant professor of medicine. If you have a question for our 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.

Other news

[Podcast: Success stories and challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (WashU Med News, March 9, 2022)

The latest episode of the 'Show Me the Science' podcast highlights a visit to WashU Med by CDC director Rochelle Walensky, MD, who discussed lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic with William Powderly, MD, the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine and co-director of the Division of Infectious Diseases.

[You'll probably need a second Covid booster shot — here's when experts say it could happen \(CNBC, March 3, 2022\)](#)

WashU Med immunologist Ali Ellebedy, PhD, said COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are doing a "great job" of protecting against severe disease, and the need for an additional booster will depend on a few factors — how well the current boosters hold up for high-risk populations over time and whether any dangerous COVID variants emerge after omicron.

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