

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak Update

March 14, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In order to provide updates on the evolving response and best practices in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, AHP will be delivering brief, critical updates on an ongoing basis addressing important highlights and frequently asked questions.

Today's update reinforces testing criteria in light of the second confirmed COVID-19 case in Monroe County and the subsequent county-wide school closings and emergency declaration. That news will generate calls particularly from concerned patients connected to the Greece School District who wish to be tested. To avoid overwhelming the system, it is of vital importance that **only** symptomatic patients who have been in direct contact with this case be tested, and the Monroe County health department will be identifying and coordinating testing for those individuals.

We also want to provide a patient screening script and update you on personal protective equipment and telemedicine.

Testing

Testing for patients meeting criteria can be performed in your office or at a [UR Medicine Urgent Care location](#). Supplies that enable testing (swabs, test reagent, etc.) are EXTREMELY LIMITED, so it is critical that you only test or refer for testing symptomatic patients (febrile, cough, aches, shortness of breath) who have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case or who have traveled to an impacted area. Symptomatic healthcare workers should also be referred for testing. See [yesterday's update](#) for more details about testing referral criteria and in-office testing recommendations.

Screening

A screening script was developed by leaders at Golisano Children's Hospital for use in pediatric primary care. The script can be viewed [here](#) and is easily adaptable for adult primary care. **Please note that at present we continue to recommend that you tell symptomatic patients who do not meet testing criteria and who are not acutely ill to remain home and quarantine in place.**

As always, if the patient is acutely ill (labored breathing, hypoxic, etc), he/she should be sent to the ED, but be sure to notify the ED first that a symptomatic patient is coming. DO NOT send patients to the ED for testing unless they are acutely ill and warrant the ED level of care.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Monroe County Health Department's ability to provision emergency PPE is likely to become still more limited now that Skilled Nursing Facilities are under direction to mask all staff who must come within six feet of patients. We continue to advocate for our providers and search for other sources.

Telemedicine

The unavailability of PPE increases the urgency around identifying a telemedicine platform for interested practices. AHP leadership is working closely with UR Medicine leaders and others to

facilitate a solution. We hope to have a solution identified and a plan in place by next week.

We continue to partner with Dr. Mendoza and County Health Department officials on preparedness and response protocols and will convey information as it becomes available.

Thank you for your continued collaboration in this important public health endeavor.

All the best,

J. Chad Teeters, MD
Executive Medical Director, AHP



Resource Links

NEW: American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Site
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/>

NEW: Archive of AHP COVID-19 Updates
<https://ahpnetwork.com/category/news/covid-19/>

Monroe County Health Department
<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/health-coronavirus>

CDC Coronavirus Site
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

New York Department of Health Coronavirus site:
<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

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