

## COVID-19 Daily Update

March 21, 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.

### REMINDER: Call for Pediatric Practices TONIGHT

**Participating pediatricians are invited to join LJ Shipley at 7:00 pm this Saturday, March 21st** for a call to discuss the outbreak's impact on private pediatric practices and strategic approaches moving forward. We hope at least one pediatrician from each practice will dial in. An invitation was sent out yesterday; contact [Renée Sutton](#) if you did not receive your invitation.

### REMINDER: SUNDAY COVID-19 Response Call

AHP will be hosting an update call at 7:00 pm this Sunday, March 22nd to share new information obtained over the weekend and to be available for provider questions and concerns. You may dial in to **1 669 900 6833** and enter **Meeting ID: 585 730 12551**. Although we do not plan on showing any slides, you can also use your computer to listen to the call using <https://urmc.zoom.us/my/rsuttonahp>. If you need a little Zoom primer, please see the reference document [here](#).

### Social Distancing and Medication Access

AHP's Pharmacy Team provides the following guidance to support medication adherence while also complying with mandated social distancing measures:

- Remind patients that picking up medications is considered an essential activity and that outpatient pharmacies do remain open.
- Consider sending prescriptions for 90-day supplies to limit exposure risk. Many insurance companies have provided overrides that now allow pharmacies to bill for extended day supplies.
- Encourage patients to take advantage of pharmacy delivery services:
  - Highland Southwedge Pharmacy: offers free delivery within Monroe County via delivery driver
  - Wegmans: offers free delivery via mail
  - CVS and Walgreens: both of these pharmacies offer delivery and are waiving delivery fees

### COVID Pharmacy FAQ: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

**Q: Should post-exposure prophylaxis be prescribed for people who may have been exposed to COVID-19?**

**A:** No. There are no FDA approved agents at this time for post-exposure prophylaxis for people who have been exposed to COVID-19. This includes antimalarial drugs hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine. Data with these agents remains limited to *in vitro* data demonstrating activity against SARS-CoV-2 and published reports from China's experience suggesting efficacy in small *in*

vivo studies for patients with COVID-19 associated pneumonia ([source](#)).

**Recommendation:** We are following the recommendations of the CDC for prophylaxis closely based on the rapidly evolving evidence. At this time, prophylaxis is not recommended in persons with potential COVID-19 exposure. Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine should not be prescribed “just in case” or to those who are in self-isolation to take should they test positive for COVID-19 or start to show symptoms. Everyone must help to preserve our local and national supply for use as a potential treatment agent in hospitalized patients.

#### Matilda’s Law

One aspect of the “New York State on PAUSE” executive order is Matilda’s Law which establishes specific requirements for people 1.) age 70 and older, 2.) who are immunocompromised and/or 3.) who have an underlying illness. Among other mandates, this group of New Yorkers is required to be masked in the company of others. The order also requires, to the greatest extent possible, that everyone in the presence of a member of this vulnerable population be masked. You can read more [here](#).

#### Testing Guidance

We learned today that UR Medicine Labs has received a supply of reagent that will expand testing capacity for the next few days. However, swabs and reagent remain scarce, and testing is still prioritized for inpatients and the healthcare workers in direct contact with known COVID patients. For these reasons, our testing guidance remains the same: advise stable febrile patients with flu-like symptoms to remain at home in self-quarantine following the isolation guidelines here; do not test or refer for testing. **This guidance may change as our capacity to test improves.**

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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



**LJ Shipley, MD**  
Pediatric Medical Director



**Renée Sutton**  
Senior Director, Provider  
Relations

#### Practice Resources

[UR Medicine Urgent Care Centers](#)

[Instructions for Home Isolation](#)

[Swabbing Procedures](#)

[Sample Office Signage](#)

[Screening Script](#)

[Community Resource Guide](#)

[Pediatric Behavioral Health Resource](#)

[Resources for Medically Complex Pediatric Patients](#)

[Breastfeeding and Coronavirus](#)

[Pharmacy Pearl: COVID and Commonly Prescribed Drugs](#)

Project Teach: Seven Ways to Support Kids and Teens Through the Coronavirus Pandemic, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

### COVID-19 Resource Links

American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Site

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/>

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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