

COVID-19 Daily Update

March 22, 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: COVID-19 Response Call TONIGHT

AHP will be hosting an update call at 7:00 pm this evening 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](#).

New Well Child Guidelines

We are updating our guidance, based on recent primary care meetings, regarding non-essential visits. In consultation with network pediatricians, we are continuing to recommend prioritization of WCC for newborns, 2 month, 4 month, 6 month and 12 month visits, and adding that primary care child health providers consider well child visits through age two as essential visits to assure access to important immunizations and comprehensive screening. We will be providing additional guidance on how to deliver this care safely while minimizing the risk of exposure. Until our more comprehensive direction is ready, we suggest that one best practice to consider implementing is to screen all visitors to your practice for fever.

NYS Shared Work Program

For practices weighing next steps related to staffing in the face of reduced visits, we are sharing information about the NYS Shared Work Program. Under this program, employees can receive partial unemployment benefits while working reduced hours.

From the Shared Work Program website found [here](#):

The Shared Work Program helps you avoid some of the problems caused by a layoff. If you keep your employees during a temporary slowdown, you can gear up quickly when business conditions improve. You do not have the expense of recruiting, hiring, and training new employees. Also, you spare your employees the hardships of full unemployment."

New Guidance from NYS Medicaid RE: Telehealth

New guidance was received yesterday from NYS Medicaid which can be viewed [here](#). Please review this entire document for updated information on billing telephonic and other telehealth encounters, noting in particular that E&M services delivered by RNs are now reimbursable. **This update replaces the Medicaid Update Volume 36, Number 4 that we posted on March 16th.**

Matilda's Law Clarification

Yesterday's update included information about the governor's executive order "New York State on PAUSE" which establishes specific requirements for vulnerable populations (people over the age of 70 and/or with serious underlying conditions including immunosuppression). UR Medicine

has received additional guidance on the masking requirements contained in the order, clarifying that those requirements are specific to community interactions (e.g., an individual visiting a vulnerable person in his/her home) and not meant to override masking guidelines in the healthcare setting.

Personal Protective Equipment

We are communicating with a large number of varied PPE sources in order to obtain additional equipment for our community private practices. In order to optimally advocate for you, we need to refresh our data about your PPE inventory on hand on a regular basis. To that end, private primary care practices will be receiving calls from AHP staff asking specific questions about your supply of PPE on Monday, March 23rd.

Testing Guidance

No changes: 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.**

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,



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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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