

COVID-19 Update

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June 12, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

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

NEXT COVID-19 Response Call - Monday, June 15th, 12:15 pm

Due to the relative stability in the course of the outbreak in our community and the slower influx of information related to it, AHP's COVID-19 response calls will be held at 12:15 pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. **Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Monday, June 15th.** Please dial-in to 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459 or click <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459>

Provider Relief Fund Distributions for Medicaid and CHIP Providers

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) **announced** on Tuesday a \$15 billion Provider Relief Fund distribution for providers participating in state Medicaid and CHIP programs. The payment to each provider will be at least 2% of reported gross revenue from patient care; the final amount each provider receives will be determined after the data are submitted, including information about the number of Medicaid patients providers serve.

The Provider Relief Fund attestation portal can be found [here](#). Providers are encouraged to review the [instructions](#) here prior to completing and submitting the [application](#).

COVID Serologic Testing

Clinical Guidance

Primary care providers may consider ordering IgG antibody testing for:

- Individuals who have fully recovered from COVID-19 who are interested in donating convalescent plasma
- Pediatric patients with suspected or confirmed Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)
- Patients who had illness suggestive of COVID but who were unable to receive PCR testing

Referring patients to UR Labs collection site for phlebotomy may be difficult due to volume of patients able to be accommodated, so community providers are advised to draw in the office and send the tube (SST or standard red top tube) to the lab. For more information about the methodology and performance of UR Labs' testing assay, click [here](#).

Reimbursement Guidance

The only patient cohort for whom health insurance will reliably cover serologic testing are those patients who had symptoms consistent with COVID infection but who were unable to receive PCR testing, and thus antibody testing is being used to confirm prior COVID exposure. The best way to demonstrate this is to code the encounter and reason for test as Z01.84 "Encounter for antibody

testing that is not being performed to confirm a current COVID infection nor is being performed as a follow up test after resolution of COVID-19.”

Clinical Guidance: COVID PCR Testing

In addition to testing for symptomatic healthcare and other essential workers and long term care residents, primary care providers may consider testing for the following patients:

- Mild to moderately symptomatic patients
- Patients whose living arrangements are not amenable to isolation (e.g., multi-generational household, limitations of physical space, etc.)
- Patients whose employers require evidence of testing either to return to work or to access benefits related to COVID status
- Patients who will be undergoing an aerosolizing procedure (e.g., exercise stress test, endoscopy procedure, transesophageal echocardiography [TEE])
- Pediatric patients with symptoms suggestive of Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)
- Children with complex health needs whose specialized childcare providers (e.g., Daystar) require testing prior to returning

It is likely that these studies will be sent to an outside lab for processing with a turnaround of anywhere from two to five days.

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

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COVID-19 Resource Links

Golisano Children's Hospital Coronavirus Information for Families

Project Teach: Seven Ways to Support Kids and Teens Through the Coronavirus Pandemic, in **English** and **Spanish**

American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Site

Monroe County Health Department

CDC Coronavirus Site

New York Department of Health Coronavirus site

COVID-19 Online Databases

- **[Greater Rochester Area COVID-19 Tracker](#)**
- **[Monroe County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)**
- **[NYSDOH COVID-19 Tracker](#)**
- **[NYS Nursing Home Fatalities](#)**
- **[CDC Coronavirus Interactive](#)**
- **[Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Dashboard](#)**

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