

COVID-19 Daily Update

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June 3, 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.

TOMORROW: Behavioral Health Consultation - Thursday, June 4th, 7:30 am

Join the AHP Behavioral Health team as well as members from our pharmacy, care management and social work teams every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:30am – 8:00 am via Zoom and/or phone for just in-time, virtual consultation support for the behavioral health needs of both your pediatric and adult patients. Click on the zoom link: <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/948873484> or dial in: (646) 876-9923, Meeting ID: 948 873 484.

No COVID-19 Response Call Friday, June 5th

To allow AHP staff and providers to attend the URM COVID-19 Grand Rounds (details below), we will not conduct a COVID response call t his Friday, June 5th. **Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Monday, June 8th.** Please dial-in to 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459 or click <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459>

REMINDER: URM COVID Grand Rounds, Friday, June 5th, 12:00 - 1:15 pm

Community providers are invited to join this URM grand rounds on COVID therapeutics. Presentations from the COVID Treatment Team and the COVID Interventional Trials Working Group will include the current COVID treatment algorithm, the charge and activities of the working group, and information on the nature and status of trials expecting to enroll patients.

Register for the Grand Rounds by clicking [here](#). Upon registration, you will receive the Zoom information necessary to dial in. ****Please note that this Zoom information replaces the information linked to in our May 29th email update.****

MVP Resumes Prior Auth for Elective Procedures

MVP updated this information shortly after our call today. Effective June 2, 2020, prior authorization is back online for elective procedures requiring it for all lines of business starting with dates of service June 19, 2020 and forward. Read the fast fax [here](#).

COVID Antibody Testing Guidance

Current guidance regarding coverage of antibody testing by payers is rapidly evolving and likely to change moving forward, however there are a couple of things that seem unlikely to change. First, COVID antibody testing will not be covered as confirmation of a positive PCR test (i.e. nasopharyngeal swab), for acute infection and also not likely covered to confirm positivity in patients who had previously tested PCR positive for COVID. Secondly, payers will not cover testing for general epidemiologic surveillance, for return to work status or as proof of immunity. The only group who seemingly will be reliably covered at this moment are 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 which covers “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”. We will provide further updates as we receive them on this important topic.

COVID PCR Testing Guidance

In addition to testing for symptomatic healthcare and other essential workers and long term care residents, 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])

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,



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Executive Medical Director



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Renée Sutton
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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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