

COVID-19 Update

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July 1, 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, July 2nd, 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.

Next COVID-19 Response Call - Wednesday, July 8th, 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 now be held at 12:15 pm every Wednesday. **Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Wednesday, July 8th.** Please dial-in to 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459 or click <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459>

NYS Travel Advisory and Essential Healthcare Workers

The recent [NYS Executive order](#) directs anyone coming from states with high rates of COVID-19 to voluntarily quarantine for 14 days when they arrive in New York. Asymptomatic health care workers are permitted to work during quarantine if certain conditions are met. Based on the interim DOH guidance found [here](#), UR Medicine will be requiring the following for asymptomatic essential employees returning from these states:

- Obtain PCR testing within 24 hours of returning to NYS (the employee may work while awaiting results)
- Mask
- Monitor actual temperature and symptoms twice daily
- Observe stay-at-home quarantine procedures when not working for 14 days

The requirements of the travel advisory do not apply to any individual passing through designated states for a limited duration (i.e., less than 24 hours) through the course of travel. Examples of such brief passage include but are not limited to: stopping at rest stops for vehicles, buses, and/or trains; or lay-overs for air travel, bus travel, or train travel.

Travelers from “High Incidence COVID States” Restricted from Hospital Visitation

UR Medicine hospitals are aligning visitor restrictions with the recent NYS Executive order which requires individuals to self-quarantine for 14 days after traveling to a state with high incidence of COVID (click [here](#) for the list). Effective immediately, any visitor who screens positive for travel to one of these high COVID incidence states will not be allowed to visit patients within our hospitals.

Exceptions for palliative care patients are under review.

New Guidelines for Pre-Operative COVID Testing

In light of the [June 14 New York State DOH guidelines](#), which included an expanded time frame for COVID testing prior to elective surgery (five days instead of three), the following guidance was issued for the UR Medicine health system:

- For any outpatient elective surgery or procedure that requires general anesthesia, pre-operative COVID testing should be completed one to three days prior to surgery with rare exceptions (e.g., patient lives far away, unanticipated surgery delays).
- When an exception occurs, the testing must take place within five days.
- For all other outpatient procedures, pre-operative COVID testing may be completed up to five days before the procedure.

COVID Testing

Clinical Guidance - Serologic Testing

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 - Serologic Testing

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. Provider claims for medically appropriate COVID-19 testing MUST be submitted with one of the following codes: CPT® codes U0001, U0002, U0003, U0004, 0202U, 86328, 87635, and/or 86769. These codes may be billed with diagnoses of B97.29, U07.1, Z03.818, and/or Z20.828 when appropriate.

Clinical Guidance: 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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