

COVID-19 Update

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July 22, 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 23rd, 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 29th, 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 29th.** Please dial-in to 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459 or click <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459>

SAVE THE DATE: PPE Pickup, Wednesday, July 29th

Our next PPE pick-up will be held **Wednesday, July 29th between 9:00 and 10:30 am.** Eligible practices were provided a survey link to communicate their current PPE needs, and detailed instructions for the pick-up will be provided early next week. Contact [Renee Sutton](#) with any questions.

Guidance for Schools Regarding Physicals

The NYS Department of Education recently provided new guidance to schools regarding school physicals. Included in the communication was direction to accept school health exam forms in any format, prior to January 30, 2021. (Although schools are asked to accept any type of exam form, the new NYS form is now available and can be downloaded [here](#).) Schools are also directed to allow student athletes to play without an updated physical so long as they had a physical for school attendance in the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school years.

Read the entire NYS Department of Education communication [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: Back to School Summit, Monday, August 10th, 7:00 pm

To assist providers who care for children with navigating the various requirements relative to COVID across the region for children returning to school, we invite all pediatric and family medicine providers to participate in a Zoom call on Monday, August 10th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Invitations with dial-in information will be issued closer to the meeting date. **Please note that this meeting date may change based on the availability of relevant guidance from DOH, Department**

of Education and other stakeholders.

New Online Resources

Patient Pearls: Safety Rules for Cleaning Products: downloadable guidance for patients from the Upstate New York Poison Centers on the safe usage of cleaning products, sanitizers and disinfectants.

Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID: revised CDC guidance, reduces time for isolation and precautions from 14 days to ten days.

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

There is increasing variability in how rapidly results of PCR tests are being returned based upon where the study is resulted. UR Labs are currently resulting all studies internally with results expected within 48 hours and often much quicker. We will continue to update on testing availability and processing time as information changes.

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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Pediatric Medical Director



[Renée Sutton](#)
Senior Director, Provider
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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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