

## COVID-19 Update

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August 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.

### **Tomorrow: Behavioral Health Consultation, August 13th, 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 to (646) 876-9923, Meeting ID: 948 873 484.

### **TOMORROW: Back to School Summit, Thursday, August 13th, 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 **Thursday, August 13th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm**. To participate, click on the Zoom link <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98351686795> or dial in (646) 876 9923, Meeting ID: 983 5168 6795

### **Next COVID-19 Response Call - Wednesday, August 19th, 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, August 19th**. Click on the Zoom link <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459> or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

### **Changes to Asymptomatic Testing at UR Medicine Ambulatory Sites**

Effective Monday, August 10, all UR Medicine ambulatory areas testing for COVID-19 in asymptomatic patients will perform the test using a nasal swab (bilateral mid-nasal turbinates is the source) except for pre-operative or pre-procedural patients who will require Anesthesiology services. Recent literature indicates that mid-nasal turbinate swabs can be as effective as a nasopharyngeal swab, is more comfortable for patients, and allows us to tap into additional health care workers to perform the test. Nasopharyngeal swabs are still required for any symptomatic testing, no matter where the location.

### **Changes to COVID-19 PCR Order and Results Reporting from UR Labs**

Effective Sunday, August 9, the COVID-19 PCR order is changing from a Microbiology order to a Lab order. Instead of reporting an organism name for positives and a ‘.’ for negatives, the result will look like “Source POS” or “Source NEG” in Chart Review. The actual COVID-19 PCR results value will be “POS,” “Presumptive POS,” or “NEG.” For insufficient specimen (i.e. Lab error), the test will be cancelled (discontinued), rather than resulted with the value of “Lab Cancel.”

## 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.**

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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 Pharmacy Archive](#)

## 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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