

## COVID-19 Update

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August 26, 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 27th, 7:30 am

Join the AHP Behavioral Health team as well as members from our pharmacy, care management and social work teams tomorrow 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.

**Please note that after tomorrow's call, these huddles will have a new schedule. After a brief hiatus during the week of August 31st during which no calls will be held, the new schedule resumes on Tuesday September 8th when the huddles will be held only on Tuesdays, from 12:15 to 1:00 pm.** The Zoom link for these meetings will remain the same: <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/948873484> or dial in to (646) 876-9923, Meeting ID: 948 873 484.

### 2nd Return to School Summit - Monday, August 31st, 7:00 pm

Healthcare providers and practices are invited to a second collaborative community-wide forum from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Monday, August 31st to discuss protocols, resources and other information relative to school reopening that were recently distributed and which are linked below. Representatives from the Monroe County Department of Public Health, the Finger Lakes Task Force and URMCI Infection Prevention will be available to provide any updates and answer questions. Invitations with dial-in information will be issued shortly.

### Return to School Resources:

- [Screening and response algorithm for students with illness symptoms](#)
- [Response algorithm for asymptomatic students under quarantine](#)
- [Monroe County K-12 Schools FAQs](#)
- [Practical Guidance for Primary Care Providers](#)
- [Mask Wearing Toolkit](#)
- [School Reopening Plans](#)

### Patient Pearls: Helping Your Child to Feel Comfortable Wearing a Mask

With masking likely to be as controversial in the school setting as it has been for the general public, we have developed this Patient Pearl for provider officers to share with parents. Condensed from the [Mask Wearing Toolkit](#) developed by URMCI's division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, the document provides helpful strategies for encouraging children to tolerate masking. Click [here](#) to view and download this Patient Pearl.

### Next COVID-19 Response Call - Wednesday, September 2nd, 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, September 2nd.** Click on the Zoom link <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459> or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

### **DOH Seeking Physicians Who Will Administer COVID-19 Vaccine**

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) today launched a quick survey to identify New York State (outside of NYC) healthcare providers interested in/able to to administer COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available and to vaccinate eligible adults in the upcoming influenza season. The survey is available online by clicking [here](#).

### **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

## Practice Resources on ahpnetwork.com

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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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