

COVID-19 Update

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September 23, 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.

Next Behavioral Health Call - Tuesday, September 29th, 12:15 to 1:00 pm

Join the AHP Behavioral Health team as well as members from our pharmacy, care management and social work teams every Tuesday from 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm 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, September 30th, 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 30th.** Click on the Zoom link <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459> or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

Return to Sports After COVID in Pediatric Patients

As reviewed on today's call, there is some initial guidance from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [American College of Cardiology](#) regarding pediatric patients being cleared to return to sports activities after a COVID diagnosis. Some of the key points of that guidance includes:

- Patients post-COVID diagnosis/positive test must be asymptomatic for 14 days to return to sports (note: which could be later than the release from isolation)
- Patients who have had **true** contact exposure are restricted from participation for 14 days (same timeframe as quarantine rules)
- Need for screening EKG: reserved for those greater than or equal to 12 years of age who had moderate COVID symptoms and are returning to high intensity sports/activity (Golisano Pediatric cardiology will review and read these with results returned within 48 hours)
- Cardiology referral: Abnormal EKG or severe symptoms/presentation of COVID or any patient diagnosed with MIS-C

Please note that this content will be finalized and shared by the Finger Lakes Reopening Schools Taskforce within the next week. Final guidance from Golisano Pediatric Cardiology will be forthcoming as well.

REMINDER: Order COVID Testing Supplies from UR Labs

Following some initial supply issues for swabs and transport media due to the sudden increase in

demand related to school, college and nursing home testing, UR Labs now anticipates being able to fulfill the current demand for supplies from community practices. For detailed instructions on how to become a UR Lab customer and order testing supplies, click [here](#).

[New State Guidelines for Reporting COVID-19 Results](#)

Recently released [NYS Executive Order No. 202.61](#) requires all laboratories and facilities that perform point of care testing, including urgent care centers, medical offices, hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, and clinics, to report all COVID and influenza test results via the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). All test results (e.g., positive, negative, indeterminate) must be reported within three hours of receipt in order to inform and enable prompt initiation of contact tracing.

For providers collecting specimens but sending them out to be resultated, the lab will be responsible for reporting results to the state. However, the executive order requires the ordering provider to inquire: (i) whether the individual receiving the test attends, works, or volunteers in a school, and if so, where; (ii) for the individual's place of employment; and (iii) for the individual's local address. Information obtained must be included in the ECLRS report, so that information must be shared with the lab via the requisition form.

If your practice is testing and resultating for COVID and influenza at the point of care but does not currently report via ECLRS, contact the NYS ECLRS Help Desk (866-325-7743 or ecdrs@health.ny.gov) for instructions on how to initiate reporting.

Please note that additional, detailed guidance will be forthcoming from NYS DOH and UR Labs and will be included in future updates.

[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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[*New* Back to School 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](#)

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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