

COVID-19 Update

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October 7, 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.

Governor Announces New Cluster Action Initiative

To address the COVID hot spots emerging downstate, NYS DOH is implementing new rules and restrictions directly targeted to ZIP codes with high concentrations of COVID cases. The initiative divides these clusters and the areas around them into three categories with successively higher restrictions within each one:

- Yellow Zone - Precautionary Zone: all businesses open, indoor and outdoor dining (limit four per table) allowed, schools open, mass gatherings limited to 25.
- Orange Zone - Warning Zone: high risk non-essential businesses (gyms, personal care) closed, outdoor (limit four per table) and takeout dining only, schools remote only, mass gatherings limited to 10
- Red Zone - Cluster Itself: only essential businesses open, takeout dining only, schools remote only, mass gatherings prohibited

Click [here](#) to read more about the Cluster Action Initiative. Although developed to address issues downstate, this initiative may apply in our region should similar, localized hotspots emerge.

NEW DIAL IN INFO for Behavioral Health Call - Tuesday, October 13th

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.

Please note that to comply with Zoom security requirements, a password has been added to this meeting. Users have two options for participation:

- Phone only: Dial 1 (646) 876-9923, enter Meeting ID 92843450755 and Password 702578
- Computer: Click the link below which has the password embedded

<https://urmc.zoom.us/j/92843450755pwd=c2UxS0FJM3ISUXRVRXE5bTIBNmV5dz09>

Next COVID-19 Response Call - Wednesday, October 14th, 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, October 14th.** Click on the Zoom link <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459> or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

New Back to School Resources Forthcoming

In light of the new [NYS DOH Pre-K to 12th Grade Toolkit](#), community partners are working to revise the previously released back to school resources, including FAQs, algorithms and attestation samples. These now out-of-date documents have been removed from the [pediatric COVID archive on ahpnetwork.com](#), but we anticipate having the new versions available early next week.

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



[LJ Shipley, MD](#)
Pediatric Medical Director



[Renée Sutton](#)
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Practice Resources on ahpnetwork.com

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[Pediatric Resources Archive](#)

[Telemedicine Resources Archive](#)

[COVID Pharmacy Archive](#)

[*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](#)

[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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