

## COVID-19 Update

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October 28, 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.

### Updated Antigen Testing Recommendation

New York State recently updated their recommendations about potential allowances for use of COVID antigen testing in the schema for verifying COVID status. At this time, antigen testing is most helpful in hotspots and areas where a significant increase in testing is required (ZIP codes or school districts with high prevalence of COVID-19). With lower prevalence of COVID-19, the predictive value and risk of false negative testing remains high when using antigen or molecular testing compared with PCR. **A negative COVID antigen test requires a COVID PCR test to definitively remove the patient from isolation for presumed COVID.** Therefore, at this time we do not see a significant utility for antigen testing, but we will continue to update these recommendations as prevalence and recommendations evolve.

### Excellus Communication Re: CPT 99072

Recently added to the CPT code set by the American Medical Association, Code 99072 is meant to be billed for the additional supplies and clinical staff time to perform safety protocols that allow for the provision of evaluation, treatment or procedural services during a public health emergency. Excellus BCBS has issued a communication to providers reporting that this code will not be reimbursable; click [here](#) to read this provider memo.

### Mandated COVID Testing for SUNY Students Leaving Campus for Thanksgiving

Per the recent communication from the governor's office, SUNY will require on-campus students to test negative for COVID-19 before leaving for Thanksgiving break. That means SUNY's 64 colleges and universities will test about 140,000 people over a 10-day period leading up to Thanksgiving break. Per the policy, colleges in the SUNY system should schedule tests as close as possible to students' departure date. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### COVID Healthcare Forum, November 12, 2020

The Greater Rochester Quality Council will conduct a COVID-19 healthcare forum on November 12, 2020, 8:00 to 9:30 am. This is a free Zoom event featuring presentations from leaders of the Monroe County Department of Public Health, Rochester Regional Health, and UR Medicine discussing three areas of learning from the COVID-19 pandemic: Leading through a Pandemic, Using a Crisis for Innovation, and Understanding Disparities. Registration for this event is required, click [here](#) for more information.

### Next Behavioral Health Call - Tuesday, November 3rd, 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.

**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>

### **SAVE THE DATE: PPE Pickup, Wednesday, November 4th**

Our next PPE pick-up will be held **Wednesday, November 4th 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 [Kevin Kelley](#) with any questions.

### **Next COVID-19 Response Call - Wednesday, November 4th, 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, November 4th**. Click on the Zoom link <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459> or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

### **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 72 hours or fewer. 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,



[J. Chad Teeters, MD](#)  
Executive Medical Director



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



[Renée Sutton](#)  
Senior Director, Provider  
Relations

## Practice Resources on [ahpnetwork.com](http://ahpnetwork.com)

[Daily Updates Archive](#)

[Patient Resources Archive](#)

[Clinical Resources Archive](#)

[Business Resources Archive](#)

[Behavioral Health Archive](#)

[Payer Information Archive](#)

[Pediatric Resources Archive](#)

[Telemedicine Resources Archive](#)

[COVID Pharmacy Archive](#)

[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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