

COVID-19 Update

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November 11, 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.

COVID Testing at UR Medicine Urgent Care

As the demand for testing continues to grow, the availability of COVID testing at UR Medicine locations is undergoing some modifications:

- **Asymptomatic testing:** Testing of asymptomatic individuals performed, for example, to meet travel guidelines or to satisfy requirements for college students returning to campus, ***will not be available at UR Medicine Urgent Care***. These patients should be directed to the state-operated location at MCC.
- **Pre-procedure testing:** Patients may be sent to the four UR Medicine Labs locations listed [here](#). Patients should be provided with a paper requisition to bring with them to the test site. This option will only be available to patients whose procedure will be conducted at a UR Medicine facility or at the office of an AHP-participating specialist.
- **Symptomatic testing:** Symptomatic patients may continue to be referred to UR Medicine Urgent Care with a physician order.

MVP FastFax Updates COVID Testing Coverage

Click [here](#) to see the MVP communication clarifying that medically necessary COVID testing will have zero cost share for MVP members. This FastFax also notes the codes for asymptomatic testing that are not reimbursable.

Online Forum: School and Community Healthcare Alignment for COVID-19

The Finger Lakes Reopening Schools Safely Taskforce together with other community stakeholders will be hosting a Zoom meeting from **7:00 to 8:00 pm on Monday, November 16th** for primary care providers to join a dialogue with the Monroe County Department of Health, school physicians and school nurses on the latest updates relative to COVID-19 symptom screening, testing and response.

Registration is required to attend this meeting. Please click [here](#) to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about dialing in to the event.

REMINDER: 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 17th, 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=c2UxS0FJM3ISUXVRXE5bTIBNmV5dz09>

SAVE THE DATE: PPE Pickup, Wednesday, November 18th

Our next PPE pick-up will be held **Wednesday, November 18th 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 18th, 12:15 pm

AHP's COVID-19 response calls are held at 12:15 pm every Wednesday. Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Wednesday, November 18th. 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

Antigen Testing

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.

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,



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

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

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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