ACCOUNTABLE
—HEALTH PARTNERS—

COVID-19 Update

December 16, 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 Back to School Resources

As discussed on today's call, the Return to Play Related to COVID Infection Algorithm has been updated to clarify the moderate symptoms that would indicate referral to cardiology. The revised algorithm can be viewed **here**. This new algorithm necessitated some changes to the template assessment/release for return to play form, the updated version of which can be downloaded **here**.

These items and others were discussed on Monday evening's School and Community Healthcare Alignment for COVID forum. The slides from that forum can be viewed **here**, and we will share the recording from the event when it is made available.

COVID Vaccine Resources

NYS COVID Vaccination Program Handbook: A comprehensive handbook covering vaccine storage, administration and prioritization. Please note that although the cover has an October 2020 date, this version was released on December 16, 2020.

Recording of URMC Vaccination Town Hall: Presenters discuss vaccine efficacy, side effects and more.

Mask Up PSA

Click **here** to view the PSA produced by Dr. Charlene Conners and her team at Zoneci Medical encouraging masking as a vital strategy for returning to normal life and the activities we love. Thank you for sharing, Dr. Conners!

Next COVID-19 Response Call, Monday December 21st

Due to the increasing impact of COVID on the community, AHP's COVID-19 response calls will now be held at **12:15 pm every Monday and Wednesday. Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Monday, December 21st.** Click on the Zoom link **https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459** or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

Excellus Updates

Reimbursement for COVID In-Office Testing

Excellus recently released the communication found **here** detailing recent updates to their administrative policy for PCR point-of-care COVID testing. Excellus confirmed on December 14th that 87637 has been loaded and will be backdated to October 6, 2020. **UPDATE: Excellus now confirms that the code was loaded on December 15th. Claims filed prior to December 15th for dates of service October 6, 2020 and later will be identified and reprocessed.**

Reimbursement for Preventive Telehealth Visits

Due to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the community, Excellus is reinstating reimbursement for preventive health visits conducted via telehealth. Click **here** to see the updated policy.

Clarifying Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for Outpatient Practices

UR Medicine has provided the guidance below on how to schedule and interact with patients who are infected with COVID-19, or exposed to COVID-19:

For patients recovering from *known COVID-19 infection,* isolation is discontinued when the patient no longer poses a risk of contagion:

- For *asymptomatic* patients (never had COVID symptoms), that is 10 days after a positive test.
- For *symptomatic* patients (initially had symptomatic COVID), that is at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, plus respiratory symptoms are improved and fever has resolved for at least 24 hours.

Patients seeking medical care after completing this isolation period should be seen as necessary and considered not contagious from a COVID standpoint. Patients may be seen within the isolation period if care is essential. They should be roomed immediately and healthcare workers should wear the appropriate PPE (mask, eye protection, gown and gloves.

Patients who have had a *known exposure* **to COVID-19** are quarantined for up to 14 days following the exposure. Patients may receive care during the quarantine period. They should be separated from other patients upon arrival, and health care workers caring for the patient should wear the appropriate PPE (mask, eye protection and gloves).

If care is elective rather than essential, telemedicine options may be explored, or treatment may be postponed until the patient is no longer contagious or quarantined. It's best that patients speak directly with their provider about these arrangements.

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** | **LJ Shipley, MD** | **Renée Sutton** |
| Executive Medical Director | Pediatric Medical Director | Senior Director, Provider Relations |

Practice Resources on ahpnetwork.com

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**

- -

To access more information on the value of AHP

Visit our website
›

Connect with us