ACCOUNTABLE
— HEALTH PARTNERS —

COVID-19 Update

December 8, 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 - TODAY, December 8th, 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.

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=c2UxS0FJM3lSUXRVRXE5bTlBNmV5dz09**

REMINDER: PPE Pickup, TOMORROW Wednesday, December 9th

Our next PPE pick-up will be held **Tomorrow, Wednesday, December 9th 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 were sent out to practices requesting an allocation. Contact **Kevin Kelley** with any questions.

New COVID Asymptomatic Testing Sites Announced

Monroe County has announced additional sites for self-administered COVID-19 rapid tests for asymptomatic residents of the county only. Click **here** to see all available locations and to complete the required registration. Please note that children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, and that tests are limited to asymptomatic individuals.

NYSDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Practices interested in administering COVID-19 vaccine when the vaccine becomes available must enroll in the NYSDOH program to be ready to order and receive publicly supplied COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies. **Providers should complete the online COVID-19 vaccine enrollment application by the close of business Friday, December 18, 2020.** Click **here** to download the Enrollment Instruction Guide and other resources.

Updated COVID-19 and Pregnancy Guidance

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and NYSDOH have recently released updated COVID-19 pregnancy guidance. The NYS guidance found **here** includes both clinical resources for providers as well as resources for pregnant individuals and their families.

The AAP update is largely unchanged from the September update, but provides a summary of guidance on infection prevention measures for hospital personnel and guidance on management of newborns and families. Highlights include:

- Approximately 1-3% of infants born to COVID positive women test positive in the first 24-96 hours after birth
- Vertical transmission of systemic disease occurs rarely
- Emerging evidence indicates that the greatest risk of infection for the newborn is when a mother has onset of COVID-19 infection near the time of delivery
- Mothers and newborns may safely room-in according to usual center practice and infants may breastfeed, again with appropriate hand hygiene and masking by their mothers.

Additional guidance on testing infants and follow-up after hospitalization can be found in the full article found **here**.

Next COVID-19 Response Call: Wednesday, December 9th

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, Wednesday, December 9th.** 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,

J. Chad Teeters, MD
Executive Medical Director

LJ Shipley, MD
Pediatric Medical Director

Renée Sutton
Senior Director, Provider Relations

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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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