

COVID-19 Update

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December 2, 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-19 Response Call Moving to Twice Weekly

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 7th**. Click on the Zoom link <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459> or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

New COVID Asymptomatic Testing Sites

Each of the sites will offer self-administered COVID-19 rapid tests, and children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Announced testing sites are below, and additional targeted asymptomatic test sites will be posted as that information is made available.

- Rochester - East High School, 1801 E. Main Street, Rochester
 - Saturdays 11:00am - 2:00pm beginning December 5th
- Brighton - Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave, Rochester
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. First date of testing is Tuesday, December 8th.
- Batavia - Genesee County Emergency Mgmt Office, 7690 State Street Rd, Batavia
 - Thursday, December 3rd from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
 - Online registration required; register [here](#).

Please note that these locations are exclusively for asymptomatic individuals.

Excellus 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 coverage, reimbursement and billing guidelines. AHP confirmed with Excellus that the following codes are reimbursable for symptomatic patients:

- 87631: Flu A/B + RSV testing
- 87636: Flu A/B + COVID testing
- 87637: Flu A/B + COVID + RSV testing

NYS DOH Announces Provider Telehealth Survey

NYS DOH is conducting a survey of all health care providers to gain knowledge of providers' experiences using telehealth during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. NYS DOH will use the results of this survey to inform post-pandemic telehealth policy development. **The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and can be found [here](#).**

All clinicians are encouraged to respond; however, please limit to one survey response per individual clinician. DOH is interested in gathering perspectives from clinicians from the same organization, especially if they have different perspectives. Please submit your survey responses as soon as possible; the survey will close on December 15th.

Next Behavioral Health Call - Tuesday, 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=c2UxS0FJM3ISUXRVRXE5bTIBNmV5dz09>

SAVE THE DATE: PPE Pickup, Wednesday, December 9th

Our next PPE pick-up will be held **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 will be provided early next week. Contact [Kevin Kelley](#) with any questions.

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.

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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[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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