ACCOUNTABLE
— HEALTH PARTNERS —

COVID-19 Update

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December 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.

REMINDER:
As announced on today's call, **there will be no COVID-19 Response Call, Wednesday, December 30th.**

Next COVID-19 Response Call, Monday January 4th
Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Monday, January 4th.
Click on the Zoom link **https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459** or dial in to (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459

Please check out the AHP YouTube channel for recorded ZOOM calls you may have missed.

REMINDER:
As announced on today's call, **there will be no AHP Behavioral Health call this week (12/29).**

AHP Behavioral Health Calls will resume on January 5th: every Tuesday from 12:15 to 1:00 pm.

PPE Pickup, Wednesday, December 30th
Our next PPE pick-up will be held **Wednesday, December 30th between 9:00 and 10:30 am.**
Eligible practices will be provided instruction on pick-up details. Contact **Kevin Kelley** with any questions.

Community Health Care Provider Vaccination Plans:
As discussed in the call today, conversations are under way about the process to begin sending invites to community providers and their staff for vaccination. After the conclusion of our call, we received the most concise guidance to date from New York State indicating that the plan to start vaccinating outpatient/ambulatory providers will begin January 4, 2021. AHP has been asked to collect information from our member providers and clinics to tier their patients and staff. It is uncertain if this information will be used to start the invite process, but we are trying to be prepared and organized knowing that plans and information is changing rapidly.

Click **here** to a link for an Excel template to organize a list of your staff for vaccination and send this to **Chad Teeters** who is maintaining the master list for AHP providers and staff. If you haven't already, please return this information to us at your earliest convenience and we will let you know if we receive alternative guidance from the State in the meantime.

New recommendations for obtaining COVID testing in patients who are quarantined because of a household close contact:

The MCDPH is encouraging a COVID test be done at 7 days even if the quarantined patient is asymptomatic in order to better identify patients with mild or no symptoms. However, because this is asymptomatic testing, insurance is not likely to pay for the test.

NYS DOH releases updated quarantine guidance consistent with CDC recommendations: This change has not been implemented yet in Monroe County but will be as soon as all workflows are revised. We will notify our providers as soon as MCDPH indicates they are switching over to the 10 day quarantine guidance. The NYS DOH guidelines can be viewed and downloaded **here**.

Other documents to reference and available for download:
- **December 14th School & Community Health Care Alignment Forum FAQs**
- **Quarantine and Isolation Infographic for Families**
- **Return to Sports Guidelines for Families Infographic**
- **Revised Protocols for Healthcare Personnel to Return to Work**

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!

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
Executive Medical Director

LJ Shipley, MD
Pediatric Medical Director

Renée Sutton
Senior Director, Provider Relations

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Patient Resources Archive

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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

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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