

COVID-19 Update

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January 27, 2021

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 Vaccination for Private Practice Healthcare Workers

As discussed on today's call, UR Medicine has transitioned the methodology by which private practice healthcare workers will be scheduled for vaccination. Rather than providing an open access link, individuals will be emailed when clinic appointments are available and authenticated at the point of scheduling. **We will be reaching out with a new email template to capture information for any remaining healthcare workers who wish to be vaccinated.**

COVID Vaccination for Patients Age 65+

UR Medicine is currently making outbound calls to schedule vaccination for patients age 65 and over based on the supply of vaccine available. Patients awaiting a call from UR Medicine for scheduling can click [here](#) for more information about this process and the vaccine itself.

For patients who do not wish to wait and would like to attempt to schedule vaccination on their own, the following links may be shared with patients. Each link directs users directly to the scheduling site of each pharmacy:

- [Kinney Drugs](#)
- [Rite-Aid](#)
- [TOPS Friendly Markets](#)
- [Wegmans](#)

Patients may also be directed to the [Finger Lakes Region Vaccine Hub](#) which includes a comprehensive list of county health department vaccination clinics.

Correction: If One Mask is Good, Two Must Be Better, Right?

In our Monday COVID response email, we indicated that there was no indication that double masking is more effective than wearing a single face covering. While it is true there is no direct evidence at this point that demonstrates superiority of double-masking, Dr. Fauci has weighed in on that question with a more nuanced response in support of combining a surgical mask with another cotton face covering as a mechanism for better droplet protection. However, a well-fitted N-95 provides optimal droplet protection, so doubling up in that instance is not necessary. A face shield or other eye protection is still recommended whether double masking or not to prevent corneal transmission.

COVID-19 Vaccine Allergy Reactions: Guidance for Providers

Per current CDC guidelines, Allergy/Immunology evaluation is recommended after any immediate hypersensitivity reaction to a SARS-CoV2 vaccine (including but not limited to symptoms of urticaria, angioedema, bronchospasm, etc.), and before vaccination if the patient has a prior history of anaphylaxis to a medication containing polysorbate or polyethylene glycol. If patients do not have an allergist already, they can be referred to UR Medicine Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology (AIR). Patients are being seen and evaluated through a referral process and are screened by the AIR team for prioritization. Community providers should fax referrals to Allergy Immunology at (585) 340-5399, and also include chart/referral notes. Providers on eRecord should send an urgent referral to Allergy/Immunology with a description of the reaction and clinical question.

New Pre-procedure Testing Requirements at UR Medicine

Effective immediately, for asymptomatic patients scheduled for a procedure at any UR Medicine facility, PCR testing of **nasal swabs** (bilateral mid-turbinate swabs) or **saliva**, performed by a *qualified outside laboratory*, will be accepted to screen for COVID-19, regardless of location or procedure. This includes pre-procedure or pre-operative testing for procedures requiring anesthesia services, for which a nasopharyngeal (NP) test had previously been required. This change aligns the testing requirements for these procedures with the guidelines in place across UR Medicine ambulatory areas and will help patients who live in areas where only saliva tests are available.

Next COVID-19 Response Call, Monday, February 1st, 12:15 - 1:00 pm

Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Monday, February 1st. 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.

Next Behavioral Health Call - Tuesday, February 2nd, 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>

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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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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