

COVID-19 Update

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February 24, 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.

Keep Masking—Shot or Not!

Even as the percentage of vaccinated health care workers continues to increase, masking remains an important strategy to controlling the pandemic. Whether vaccinated or not, it's vital that healthcare workers and others continue to wear appropriate PPE, maintain social distance and take other precautions while COVID-19 remains a threat to our community. Doing so protects providers and patients, as well as our families and friends—and it will help bring the pandemic to an end as quickly as possible.

Testing Now Required for Health Care Workers with Confirmed COVID Exposure

New York State now requires asymptomatic essential health care workers with confirmed workplace, household or community COVID exposures to have a negative PCR or antigen test before returning to work onsite (previously, workers could return without a test if they just remained asymptomatic). A confirmed exposure is when an individual has contact less than six feet apart lasting 15 minutes with a COVID positive individual, without appropriate PPE.

Community healthcare workers may obtain PCR testing for this purpose at a UR Medicine Urgent Care. The test must be repeated every three days, up to 10 days post-exposure, and they must be completed regardless of vaccination status.

Appointment Scheduling Opens for New Kodak Hawkeye City Vaccination Site

The site at St. Paul Street and Avenue E is one of six mass-vaccination sites opening statewide in a partnership between the state and FEMA. It is expected to vaccinate 1,000 people a day beginning next week, with an initial focus on those areas that have lower vaccination rates. Those **eligible for the vaccine** who live in the 14603, 14604, 14605, 14606, 14608, 14609, 14611, 14613, 14614, 14615, 14619, and 14621 zip codes can make appointments beginning today. Appointments can be scheduled **ONLY** via the state's **website** or by calling the state's COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).

SAVE THE DATE: PPE Pickup, Wednesday, March 3rd

Our next PPE pick-up will be held **Wednesday, March 3rd 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.

Interested in saving money on medical supplies including PPE? Contact **Renée Sutton** to learn more about AHP's new program with Medline.

Next COVID Response Call: Wednesday, March 3rd

Due to the relative stability in the course of the outbreak in our community and the slower influx of information related to it, AHP's COVID-19 response calls will now be held at 12:15 pm every Wednesday. **Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Wednesday, March 3rd**. Please dial-in to 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459 or click <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459>

Next Behavioral Health Call - Tuesday, March 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>

COVID Vaccination for Patients

Patients with underlying health conditions

- Patients with **specific comorbidities or underlying conditions** should be directed to schedule at a **county- or state-run mass vaccination site**, including the new site opening at
- Patients in this category who live within a Finger Lakes Hub county need only sign an attestation of their eligibility; **they will not need to provide proof of their condition.**

Patients age 65+

- These patients should be advised to **schedule vaccination on their own at a state-run site or pharmacy: Kinney Drugs -- Rite-Aid -- TOPS Friendly Markets -- Wegmans**

1B Essential Workers

- **Eligible essential workers** should be directed to the **Finger Lakes Region Vaccine Hub** website and advised to schedule vaccination on their own at a state- or county-run mass vaccination site.

1A Healthcare Workers

- Contact **Renée Sutton** to add eligible 1A healthcare workers to the list for scheduling vaccination at UR Medicine.

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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