

# ACCOUNTABLE

— HEALTH PARTNERS —

## COVID-19 Update

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December 16, 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.

### Next COVID-19 Response Call is January 5, 2022

Due to the upcoming holidays, the COVID response calls scheduled for Wednesday, December 22nd and December 29th have been canceled. **Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Wednesday, January 5, 2022.** Please dial-in to 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 989 6918 4459 or click <https://urmc.zoom.us/j/98969184459>

### Missed Any COVID Update Calls?

AHP's YouTube channel includes recordings of COVID update calls back to August 2020. Click [here](#) to view our channel, and never miss another call!

### COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering Deadlines

Shared from the December 13 NYSDOH COVID Vaccine listserv; **All orders of COVID-19 vaccine needed before January 6th, 2022 must be submitted in NYSIS by December 16** to ensure timely delivery. There are several changes to vaccine ordering (packaging, formulation, etc.). Please view the detailed guidance [here](#).

### Answering Lingering Questions about Vaccinating Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics published an article with common questions and answers that providers caring for children may have about vaccinating children ages 5-11. Information about dosing, contraindications, and other topics is found in the Q&A. The article can be read on the AAP website by clicking [here](#).

### Updates to School Reopening Guidance

The School Reopening Taskforce provided updates on guidance for return to school ([symptomatic, with no known exposure](#) or [vaccinated, with a known exposure](#)), [test to stay procedures](#), [returning to play after COVID-19 infection](#), and [management of signs or symptoms after COVID-19 vaccination](#) at the forum held on December 13. The full presentation slide-deck is available for viewing [here](#). Here are a few points for special attention:

- New York State guidelines allow for PCR/NAAT **and** Antigen testing for children who are symptomatic but have no known exposure. In symptomatic cases with **close contact exposure, PCR is required. And, with symptoms of fever or loss of taste/smell PCR is strongly recommended.**
- Home tests remain unacceptable for any return to school requirements, however, a positive home test is a true positive and should trigger reporting and quarantine measures.

### Newly Eligible Groups for COVID-19 Vaccination Boosters

Beginning December 10, NYSDOH expanded their guidance to allow a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged 16 and 17 who received their primary series of an FDA-approved vaccine more than 6 months ago. Also, included in the expanded guidance,

adolescents ages 12 to 15 who are severely immunocompromised are eligible to receive a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine if it has been more than 28 days since their primary series. The full guidance issued by NYSDOH is available for download [here](#).

#### **Vaccine Administration Reimbursement**

Both Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and MVP have identified fixes to remedy low reimbursement for the cost of COVID-19 vaccine administration.

#### **NYS Medicaid Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Counseling Coverage**

Effective December 1, 2021, NYS Medicaid fee-for-service and Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) Plans provide reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccination counseling to unvaccinated Medicaid beneficiaries to encourage the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. MMC Plans must configure their payment systems no later than February 7, 2022 to pay claims for dates of service on or after December 1, 2021. Click [here](#) to read the details on rates, coding and documentation.

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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[Payer Information Archive](#)

[Pediatric Resources Archive](#)

[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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