

# ACCOUNTABLE

— HEALTH PARTNERS —

## COVID-19 Update

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January 6, 2022

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.

### Rapidly Evolving Changes to School-Related COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols

Based on the update ([link to document](#)) sent from Dr. Mendoza and the Monroe County Department of Public Health last evening, we have confirmed the following key points or clarification:

1. **Narrowed pool for Test to Stay (TTS):** TTS only applies to asymptomatic, unvaccinated students exposed to an infectious individual while IN SCHOOL. Those exposed outside of school are not eligible.
2. **The isolation and quarantine period for students** is now reduced from 10 days to 5 days.
3. **Antigen Tests permitted for all return to school purposes.** While the PCR requirement has been lifted from the county guidance for return to school, we continue to advise in cases where clinicians have a high index of suspicion for COVID-19 infection, PCR testing remains a strong recommendation. Additionally, the language around permitted antigen tests specifies a “laboratory-confirmed Rapid Antigen Test” for return-to-school purposes. This category includes antigen tests performed where there is a limited service lab license in place or a full-fledged lab and so applies to tests conducted at practice settings, schools, test centers and laboratories.
4. **Home tests**, while allowed to stand for reporting if they are positive, are still NOT allowable for a return to school. In other words, a negative home test in a symptomatic student, regardless of vaccination status must be backed up by a laboratory-confirmed test (PCR/NAAT or antigen) as defined above.
5. Further school guidance changes are anticipated from the CDC and NYS over the upcoming days, therefore no new algorithms have been released. However, the rules summarized here are the current guidance changes and supersede the most recent county algorithms released in December.

As other changes are adopted and updated algorithms are produced, we will share that information via COVID update email.

### Testing Site Information

As discussed on the January 5th call, we have been made aware of a few new testing locations in Rochester:

#### Center for COVID Control

- 1761 Mt. Hope Ave
- Walk-in PCR and rapid antigen tests available with no out-of-pocket costs

- PCR test results are available within 24-48 hours
- Rapid antigen results are provided verbally within 15 minutes and confirmed via email within three hours
- More info [here](#)

#### **Carlson Metrocenter YMCA**

- 444 E. Main St
- Walk-in rapid antigen tests with no out-of-pocket costs; appointments also available
- More info and scheduling [here](#)

Rapid antigen testing is also available at many Monroe County sites. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are accommodated as much as possible. For site schedules and locations, click [here](#).

#### **Medicaid Testing Reimbursement Update**

Many providers brought to our attention that CPT code 87637 was not being reimbursed by Medicaid. We are happy to report that the code has now been added to the Medicaid fee schedule, so providers can be reimbursed effective retroactively December 1, 2021 for use of the Cepheid quad test for Medicaid beneficiaries. For the updated, comprehensive Medicaid Billing Guidance for COVID-19 testing, specimen collection and monoclonal antibody infusions, click [here](#).

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

For dates of service starting December 1, 2021, New York State Medicaid fee-for-service and Managed Medicaid plans will provide reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccination counseling to encourage the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Reimbursement for vaccination counseling is limited to unvaccinated individuals who have not received an initial/first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and do not have an appointment to receive an initial/first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, but who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. For more information including coding, reimbursement and documentation requirements, click [here](#).

#### **Next COVID Response Call: Wednesday, January 12th**

Due to the region's increased caseload and positivity rate, as well as the impact of the omicron variant, AHP's COVID-19 response calls will now be held on a weekly basis at 12:15 pm every Wednesday. **Our next COVID-19 Response teleconference will be held at 12:15 pm, Wednesday, January 12th.** 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 calls back to August 2020. Click [here](#) to view our channel, and never miss another call!

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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## 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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