

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

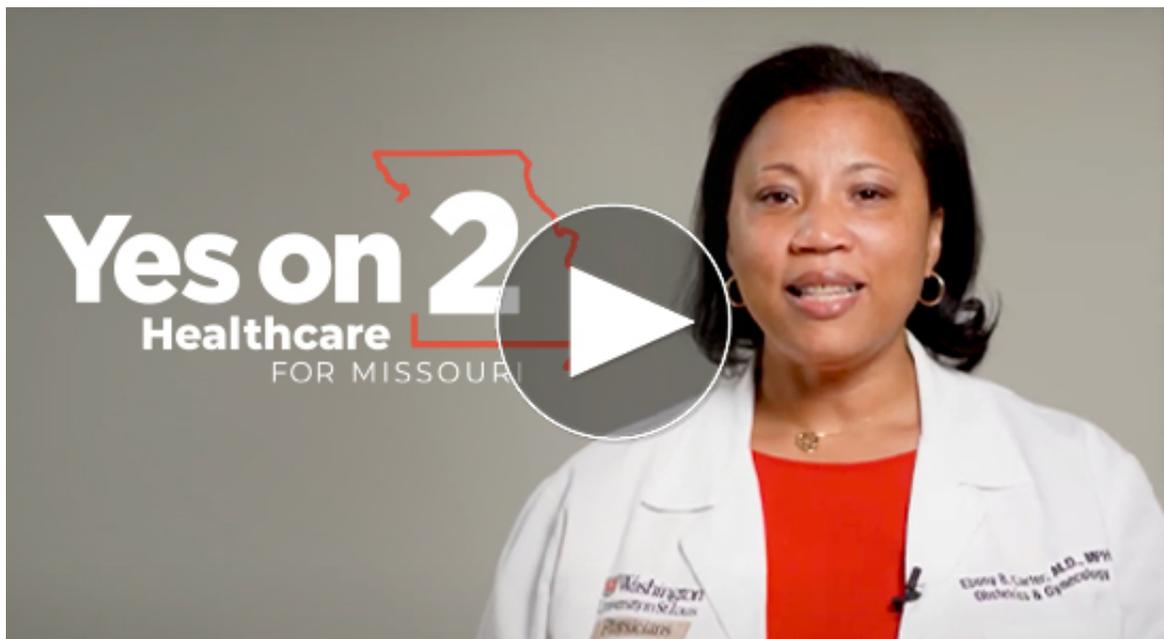
July 30, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

47 inpatients confirmed positive **18** admitted, awaiting test results

High-risk obstetrician speaks on Medicaid expansion in Missouri



As more people become unemployed and uninsured during the pandemic, it's more important than ever to vote Yes on Amendment 2 next Tuesday. For [Ebony Carter, MD, high-risk obstetrician at WashU Med](#), it means ensuring hardworking Missourians have access to preventative care, so doctors like her can treat small medical problems before they become big, life-threatening ones. [Learn more about](#)

Limited return to university-sponsored international travel



While a return to international travel is critical to the university's mission, particularly its research mission, doing so must be executed thoughtfully and responsibly, given the uncertainty of the new COVID-impacted travel landscape.

Washington University's International Travel Oversight Committee has developed a plan for a limited return to university-sponsored international travel for faculty, staff and graduate/professional students whose trips meet certain essential criteria and are approved through the University-Sponsored International Travel Petition for Exception process.

This [Return to International Travel memo](#) outlines the details regarding international travel policies and processes from July 31, 2020, until at least Dec. 31, 2020.

[Petition materials](#) became available July 27. The International Travel Oversight Committee Executive Body will start accepting petitions Friday, July 31. Contact itoc@wustl.edu for more information.

Update to PPE guidelines for COVID-19



The BJC/Washington University PPE Guidelines have been updated to include images depicting what constitutes acceptable eyewear for protection against COVID-19. Please review these changes to the [PPE Toolkit](#).

Goggles or face shields should be worn:

- When working with patients who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
- When working with any patient who is not wearing a mask.
- If you are using PAPRs or CAPRs, these would also be acceptable forms of eye protection for COVID-19 patients or suspected patients.

Conservation strategies in effect for rapid tests

Conservation strategies will go into effect today to help manage an expected shortage of rapid COVID-19 tests. Rapid tests may be ordered for symptomatic patients in labor and delivery or who require urgent surgery or procedures; patients being admitted to a behavioral health unit; or solid organ transplant patients. All other patients — including asymptomatic labor and delivery and surgery/procedure patients or patients with known exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19, or symptomatic patients who are likely to be admitted — will receive traditional batched COVID-19 tests.

Early in pandemic, frantic doctors traded tips across oceans

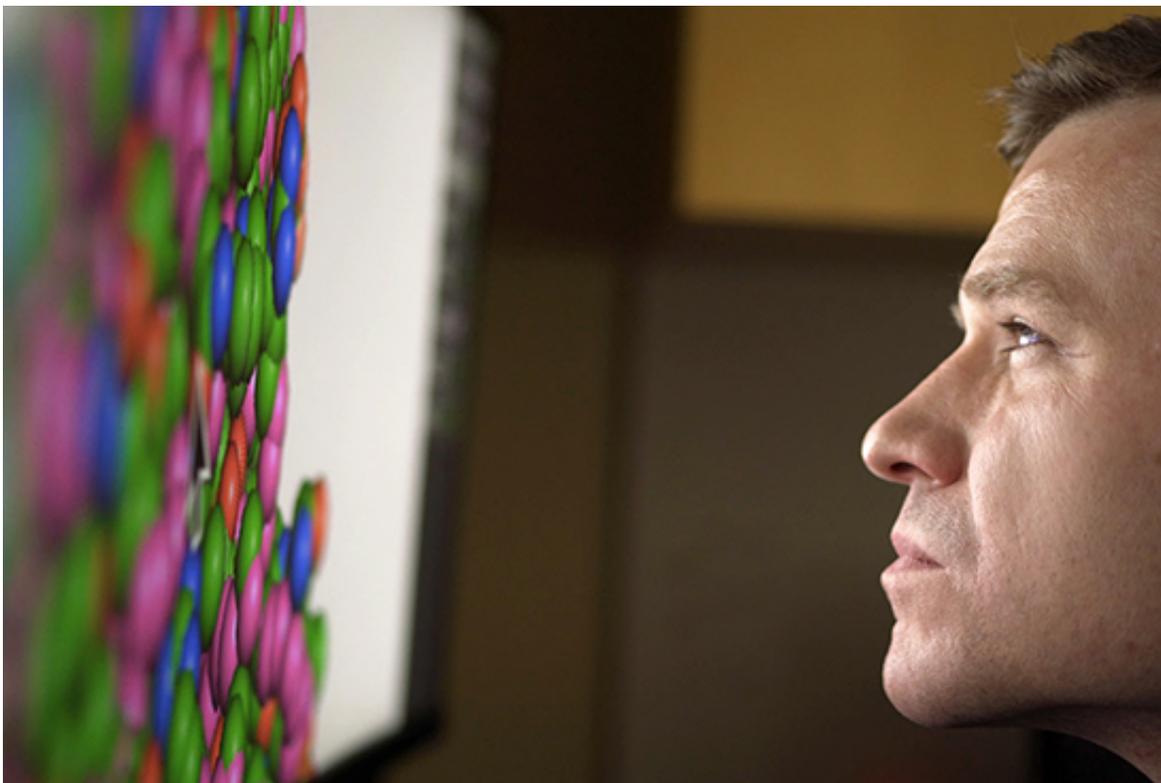


Amid the chaos of the pandemic's early days, doctors who faced the first coronavirus onslaught [reached across oceans and language barriers in an unprecedented effort](#) to advise colleagues trying to save lives in the dark. Every tidbit about the newest baffling symptom, every trick to try, served as clues as the virus bore down on the next city, the next country.

In an AP story, Tiffany Osborn, MD, a critical care physician at the School of Medicine, said a finding about the benefits of blood thinners — discovered by doctors in Beijing and Italy — made biological sense. “It means at least you’re not shooting in the dark. You’re trying something that from a physiologic standpoint makes sense,” she said.

Osborn also commented about hydroxychloroquine, ventilation measures and holding her phone in front of dying patients so loved ones could say goodbye.

Podcast: Folding@home enlists computers to ID COVID-19 treatment targets



The latest [“Show Me the Science” podcast](#) highlights an effort led by Washington University scientists using computing power from around the world to identify vulnerabilities in the coronavirus. The crowdsourced supercomputing project [Folding@home](#) harnesses the combined processing power of millions of computers whose owners download software and run simulations to model how proteins move and fold.

Greg Bowman, PhD, an associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and Folding@home leader, talks about using computer processing power to run simulations that would take more than 100 years to complete on a standard computer. Bowman says that with thousands of new participants, the project now has more raw computing power than the world’s largest 500 supercomputers — combined. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals, universities, companies, even the Spanish soccer league La Liga, have joined forces to model how the coronavirus uses its spike protein to bind to human cells.

Updates to interim guidance for infection prevention

Download the [interim guidance for infection prevention](#) for updates to the duration of transmission-based precautions and outpatient appointment plans for patients

with confirmed COVID-19. The additions include Appendix H (definition of immunocompromised patient) and Appendix I (EPIC COVID-19 RFI and Isolation Flag Logic).

Ballot notarizing at WUSM



Washington University medical students, in association with the Gephardt Institute for Civic & Community Engagement, [launched a notary initiative](#) in front of the Eric P. Newman Education Center. The service will be extended through Friday, July 31. [Sign up for a time slot to get a ballot notarized on the Medical Campus](#). Bring a mask, ID, pen and unsigned ballot. Above, Greg Stroube notarizes a ballot for Doug Char, MD, professor of emergency medicine.

Important numbers and links

- Call the BJC/WUSM employee hotline for COVID-19 exposure or illness: 314-362-5056
- Use this [online screening tool](#) before reporting to work
- Know your [screening stations](#)

- Review [inpatient protocol](#)
- Review [ambulatory protocol](#)
- Call the Well-Being Line for in-the-moment emotional support: 314-286-1700
- Contact the Employee Assistance Program for 24/7 work-life support: 844-365-4587
- Email inspirational stories to heroes@wustl.edu

For Medical Campus updates, visit coronavirus.med.wustl.edu »

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