



## WashU Med COVID-19 Update

September 17, 2020

**Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students**

### Today's COVID-19 stats from BJH

**36** inpatients confirmed positive**21** admitted, awaiting test results

### COVID question of the week: What's the impact on my family if I test positive?

Even if you don't have symptoms, you must isolate yourself from other people in your home. If you are sick, stay isolated for at least 24 hours after you are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days after symptom onset. If you do not have symptoms, remain in isolation at least 10 days after your test date. (A longer isolation period may be required for people who develop serious illness.)



#### Home isolation precautions

- Identify a place you can isolate in, such as a separate bedroom and bathroom. Stay in a designated spot for the illness duration. Everyone else should avoid the area at all times.
- If your family must have contact with you, make sure all are wearing masks.
- Call or text your family for needed items. Food should be placed outside

your closed door on disposable plates and cutlery. Have a trash can outside of your door for easy disposal.

- Use your phone to video chat with children who may not understand why you are isolated.

Family members may be required to quarantine for 14 days due to their exposure to you. [Learn more about home isolation.](#)

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## Automatic thermal scanners being installed on campus



Thermal screening devices are being installed throughout the Medical Campus to help slow the spread of coronavirus in the campus community. The scanners use infrared technology to instantly detect people with elevated skin temperatures. Rollout will be phased, with different locations going live in late September. More information about the cameras will be provided as they are rolled out.

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## Flu shot details are coming

Medical Campus procedures for this year's flu vaccines will be

announced soon. Watch your email for important details.

WUSM faculty, staff and students should adhere to the WUSM guidelines, and disregard instructions emailed from BJC HealthCare.

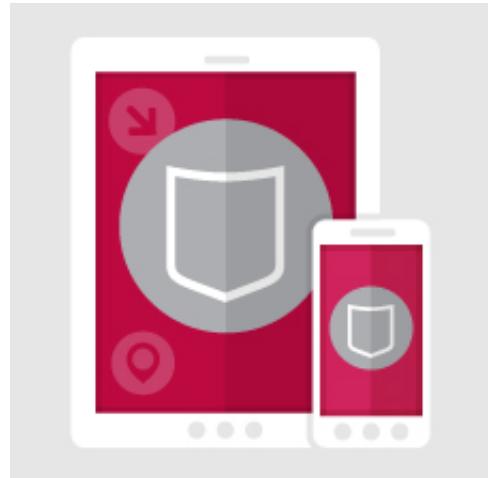


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## New digital database tracks employee occupational health records

Occupational Health Services is rolling out ReadySet, a cloud-based, electronic recordkeeping database used exclusively for work-related employee health issues. The database, which will contain information such as vaccination records, medical surveillance surveys and exposure data, will reduce the need for paper and improve workflows.

Through ReadySet, WashU employees will be able to access a secure, digital work-related occupational health record from anywhere, including a mobile device.



ReadySet will play an integral role in the 2020-21 influenza vaccine campaign. This month, watch for an email from [wustl\\_donotreply@axionhealth.com](mailto:wustl_donotreply@axionhealth.com), which will lead you into the site and your record and explain how to obtain and document your influenza vaccine this year.

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## Participate in COVID-19 research studies

Employees affiliated with Washington University and BJC HealthCare may be eligible to participate in research studies about COVID-19, including those focusing on prevention, treatment, antibody levels and plasma donation.

If interested, [click this direct link](#) or visit [studysearch.wustl.edu](http://studysearch.wustl.edu) and enter “employee” in the search bar.

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## **COVID-19 testing guidelines for GI procedures**

A [new guidance document](#) indicates that pre-procedural COVID-19 testing does not need to be performed on asymptomatic patients undergoing upper and lower GI procedures at the following facilities: **Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital and the South County Center for Advanced Medicine.** There are no changes to guidance for GI procedures at other locations.

### **Important to note:**

- Asymptomatic patients undergoing upper and lower GI procedures do not need pre-procedural COVID-19 testing.
  - Testing should be performed on any patient at these three facilities who fails a COVID symptom screening (which includes any patient from a congregate living facility).
  - Testing also can be performed on a patient who cannot provide a history (i.e., a patient with dementia).
  - If a patient is determined to need testing, thorough pre-procedural COVID-19 symptom testing at two time points (several days prior to the procedure as well as the day of procedure) will be key to ensuring that all team members have minimized exposure to COVID-19.
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## **Could common vaccine given to kids help prevent COVID-19 in adults?**



The School of Medicine is the clinical coordinating center for an international trial aimed at evaluating on a large scale whether the MMR vaccine can protect front-line health-care workers against COVID-19. According to a [front-page story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), the vaccine would not be used to treat illness; rather the researchers want to learn if a booster shot can provide broad immune protection to slow the spread of coronavirus and protect health-care workers who work in high-risk settings from developing COVID-19.

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## **COVID-19, social media and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities**



The latest episode of the [Show Me the Science](#) podcast examines problems the pandemic causes for those with developmental disabilities, and how social media increases stress related to the virus. As debates continue over whether children should be in classrooms or involved in online learning from home, child psychiatrist John N. Constantino, MD, says little has been said about kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities, many of whom have a great deal of trouble trying to learn online. Also, Patricia A. Cavazos-Rehg, PhD, talks about her team's effort to analyze the effects of social media on anxiety and depression, and use messages delivered over social media to lower stress and anxiety levels.

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## **St. Louis Symphony to perform in Hope Plaza**

A quintet from the St. Louis Symphony will be in Hope Plaza for a special performance from noon-12:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24. This is the symphony's way of thanking health-care workers who continue to serve on the front lines for our community. Employees and students are invited to attend, and must wear a mask and observe social distancing.

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I wash my hands  
**BECAUSE**  
I care for  
my patients.

Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI

Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Infectious diseases physician

Because we are WashU.

[because.wustl.edu](http://because.wustl.edu)  
Washington  
University in St. Louis

Jennie H. Kwon, DO  
Infectious Diseases  
#WashUTogether

## 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 story ideas and requests to [heroes@wustl.edu](mailto:heroes@wustl.edu)

For Medical Campus updates, visit [coronavirus.med.wustl.edu](http://coronavirus.med.wustl.edu) »

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