

WashU Med COVID-19 Update

March 27, 2020

Information for School of Medicine faculty, staff and students

For the safety of our entire team, employee and physician screening to begin Saturday

Starting at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 28, the Washington University Medical Campus (WUMC) will begin screening everyone entering the campus, including employees and physicians. Contractors and vendors have been participating in the screening process since the visitor screening points were set up. ***Please allow extra time to get to work.***

The goal is for WUMC personnel to self-screen and report prior to arrival. A random selection of personnel will have their temperatures obtained upon arrival. This process will evolve as we continue to learn and adapt over time. We acknowledge that this added step prior to starting work may be an inconvenience. However, in this unprecedented time, we want to do everything possible to keep you safe at work.

Before you leave your home, please ask yourself the following questions:

- What is your temperature today? _____ (Please take your temperature if possible)
- Did you have or feel like you have had a fever in the last 24 hours? Y/N
- Do you have a new or worsening cough? Y/N
- Are you having trouble breathing? Y/N
- Do you have new or worsening body aches? Y/N
- Do you have a sore throat, different from your seasonal allergies? Y/N

If your answers are **NO**

- Confirm with screeners that you have no symptoms and obtain sticker for visual awareness

If your answers are **YES**

- If pre-screened, stay home.
- If symptoms progress since pre-screened and are present upon arrival to work (answers are now yes), do not enter the building
- Inform your supervisor
- Contact Occupational Health at the appropriate number below.

The screening will include temperature checks. Any persons who do not meet screening criteria or have a temperature that registers at or in excess of 100 degrees will not be allowed to enter the hospital buildings.

Employees who fail the screening or temperature check will be directed to contact Occupational Health. All staff should also follow their normal call-in procedures.

- BJH employees, call occupational health: (314) 454-7002
- SLCH employees, call occupational health: (314) 454-6092
- WashU School of Medicine faculty and staff, email med.coronavirus@wustl.edu

Employees, physicians, providers, vendors or contractors who clear screening and temperature check will be given a color-coded sticker to be worn on their badge indicating that they may access the Washington University Medical Campus for a 24-hour period, beginning at 6 a.m. each day.

We will be working hard to ensure there are enough staff to screen when employees are arriving to work. However:

- Please expect a line when arriving for your shift, until we work out the optimal staffing and process.

- Should there be lines, please know tardiness will be excused.
 - While in line, please practice social distancing.
 - Please be patient as we work through this together.
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WashU departments donate PPE back to the system



The WashU community has rallied to support our health-care workers, as many labs and other groups have donated PPE to help us prepare for an expected increase in COVID-19 cases. In the past week, we have received numerous surgical face masks, gowns, N95 respirators, eye shields/goggles, examination gloves, contact isolation gowns, nasopharyngeal swabs and disinfectant wipes. Thank you to all who have donated supplies. If your lab would still like to donate, please [fill out the form](#).

On-demand COVID-19 screening via MyChart

Emergency Medicine is now offering an online symptom checker through [MyChart](#) (at no charge) for patients who think they may have COVID-19. A message was sent through MyChart notifying existing patients of this service. A patient logs in and answers questions through the symptom checker tool, which then determines whether he or she should be seen by an e-visit (online questionnaire) or video visit with a physician. E-visits and video visits are available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Following the visit, the patient will receive instruction on COVID-19 testing, if needed. A MyChart account is required to use this service.

Temporary licensing to practice in Illinois

Faculty (and other licensed health-care workers) can [apply for a temporary license](#) to practice in Illinois. Departments can submit applications for faculty and staff who are licensed in good standing in another state by emailing the application to the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation (IDPR). The department must also provide a list of faculty and staff that apply for an Illinois temporary license to Risk Management and complete an [application for Illinois insurance coverage](#) for each physician. The department must await approval from the IDPR before allowing the physician to provide any services in Illinois, including telemedicine to a patient residing in Illinois. We do not have an expected “turnaround” time, but the IDPR is working “around the clock” to expedite approvals. Once approved, faculty with temporary Illinois licenses will be able to provide services to all Illinois patients (not just COVID patients) via telemedicine or by face-to-face encounters at Illinois locations. If providing services to patients at an Illinois hospital, providers will also need to be credentialed at the respective hospital using the [Disaster Privileges Form](#). Departments must notify Risk Management when faculty/staff have received Disaster Privileges from a hospital in Illinois.

Phone and video patient visits (for concerns other than COVID-19)

To ensure the safety of patients and staff, we are now conducting both new and return patient visits over the phone and via video chat through Zoom. Providers scheduling Illinois patients must await approval from the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation (IDPR) before providing any services to a patient residing in Illinois. Each department is being asked to develop their own workflow for this service based on their specific needs. Support documents and tip sheets and can be found [here](#).

University creates COVID-19 research governance

structure

Basic and clinical research relevant to COVID-19 are essential activities at Washington University. Conducting this research in the midst of a health-care system responding to a global pandemic poses a number of challenges, which the university is actively working to surmount. Even as we respect the enormous pressures facing our frontline physician providers and hospital staff, ultimate success in reducing the harms of COVID-19 requires all parties to work together in an environment that promotes rapid completion of COVID-19 studies.

To achieve this, the university has created a COVID-19 research governance structure led by Drs. Jeff Milbrandt, Bill Powderly and Sean Whelan to coordinate research activities with patient care, and to prioritize studies that require biospecimens, data resources and access to patients. Dozens of faculty and senior staff are engaged in efforts to provide rapid logistical support and streamlined regulatory review so that important studies can be started quickly. Investigators intending to conduct a study relevant to COVID-19 must provide details to the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences at icts@wustl.edu. Additional details will soon be posted on the ICTS website.

Research-related news from Jenny Lodge

Thanks to all who have “ramped down” their research programs over this past week! We all know this is a very difficult thing for all of us who are passionate about our research and many of us are grieving. If you are at home, you can take this time to do many things you don’t have time for during your normally busy days. For some, you may find this a rare opportunity to slow down, and think deeply about your science. There are changes being made to the designations of “essential” and “non-essential” research personnel, and we are adding a “backup to essential” personnel category. More clarity about the role of trainees as “essential” personnel will be coming soon. Faculty, work with your department administrators to develop your personnel lists, and communicate your plans with your research team.

Aside from COVID-19 work, no new experiments should be started. We are in essential maintenance, pause, and wind-down mode. We have been informed by

the city of St. Louis that “essential” research personnel should not need letters to travel to and from campus. However, many will feel more comfortable with a letter in their car. Letters for essential personnel have been sent to departments for distribution. Researchers should follow the social distancing (6 feet) and hand hygiene guidelines that are being posted around campus. Importantly, practice social distancing in elevators – specific guidance for elevators is coming soon. Do not come to campus if you are ill.

Podcast launches with infectious diseases expert



The School of Medicine has launched a podcast, “Show Me the Science.” In the inaugural episode, Steven Lawrence, MD, discusses the medical response to COVID-19 and what we might expect moving forward. [Listen here](#) or [read the transcript](#).

Blood from people who recover from coronavirus could provide a treatment

An old idea for fighting infections — an approach most physicians know about only from medical lore — is being revived as people wait for drugs and vaccines to thwart the novel coronavirus. If it works, the [blood plasma of people who have recovered from COVID-19](#) would be used to protect health-care workers and help sick people get well. “We get really hung up on always trying the newest, latest, greatest thing. And sometimes the classics are good, too, and they tend to be ignored,” said Jeffrey P. Henderson, an infectious disease specialist, who is

working on the project.

Restaurants and other auxiliary services have updated hours

Some on-campus services have adjusted hours.

- Shell Café is open.
- Farmstead Cafe is open.
- The Kaldi's in Mid Campus Center is open.
- The Kaldi's in Farrell Learning and Teaching Center is closed until further notice.
- The Follett Campus Store is closed until further notice.
- The FedEx in Mid Campus Center is closed until further notice.
- The FedEx in the Clinical Sciences Research Building is open.

For a detailed list of hours, visit the Operations and Facilities Management Department's [list of facilities updates](#).

For university-wide announcements, visit coronavirus.wustl.edu »

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