

Ops Update

For all Michigan Medicine Faculty, Staff and Learners

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, 9:40 a.m.

Please share this information with your teams and front line staff, especially those who may not access emails or computers.

NEW TODAY: Here's the latest information about Michigan Medicine's management of operations:

- **COVID-19 PATIENT STATS**
- **TEAM MEMBER COVID-19 TESTING**
- **VACCINE STATS**
- **TOWN HALL VIDEO**
- **MASKING REINSTATED FOR NON-CLINICAL BUILDINGS**
- **TOWN HALL FAQs**
- **HIT PAUSE: HOPE, INSPIRATION, GRATITUDE**

DAILY COVID-19 PATIENT STATS

Today's census for COVID-19 inpatients and those patients under investigation (PUI) are noted below:

	TOTAL INPATIENTS	TESTED POSITIVE	PUI	ICU POSITIVE
ADULT	17	17	0	7
PEDIATRIC	1	1	0	0

View COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://uhabccappspr1.umhs.med.umich.edu/>

COVID-19 Patient Percent Positivity (7 day moving average, as of 8/09)

Symptomatic testing: 5.72%

Asymptomatic testing: 0.82%

Discharges: 2,858 total COVID-19 discharges to date, 5 in the last 24 hours. These numbers include patients discharged to skilled nursing facilities but exclude deaths and discharges to hospice.

Deaths and hospice: Since March 10, 2020 Michigan Medicine hospitals have had 280 total deaths or discharges to hospice, 0 in the last 24 hours.

TEAM MEMBER COVID-19 TESTING STATS*

POSITIVE	2,021
EMPLOYEES TESTED	15,413
TOTAL TESTS	31,759

** Data from 3/10/20 through 8/5/21. The testing stats reflect just Michigan Medicine employees, not all University of Michigan employees. It also reflects only those who sought testing at or were hospitalized at Michigan Medicine or reported their testing to Occupational Health Services. Some Michigan Medicine employees may have been tested outside our system.*

Employees Positive Cases for preceding week: 7/18 - 7/24/2021	14
Employee Positive Cases Last 7 Days	13
Employees Tested Last 7 Days	176
Positivity Rate (Week of 7/25 - 7/31/2021)	7.38%

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VACCINE STATS

Find the most timely and up-to-date information on the [Vaccine FAQs](#) and the [Vaccine Dashboard](#).

TOWN HALL VIDEO

Leaders hosted a virtual Town Hall last Thursday to discuss the new COVID-19 vaccine policy. In case you missed it, a video of the meeting is now [available to view](#). Also, read FAQs by [clicking here](#).

MASKING REINSTATED FOR NON-CLINICAL BUILDINGS

Effective Wednesday August 11, 2021, masking will again be required for all workforce members in non-clinical buildings, including those who are vaccinated. COVID transmission is substantial in Washtenaw County and substantial to high in other neighboring counties. Public Health is recommending that all individuals, regardless of vaccine status, wear a mask in indoor public spaces.

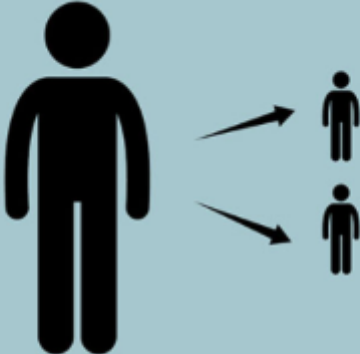
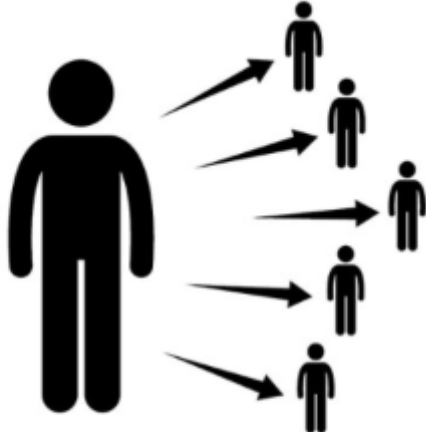
COVID numbers are increasing across Michigan, and the delta variant is reported to be causing more than 90% of cases in the United States. This variant has been shown to be more infectious than previous variants. While there have been cases of vaccine breakthrough with

the delta variant, the vaccines continue to be effective, especially against severe COVID infection (hospitalization/death). In addition, the delta variant may not respond as well to monoclonal antibody therapy that has been effective against previous strains.

It is time to refocus on COVID prevention efforts. The delta variant is more contagious, and infection prevention efforts are critical.

- COVID vaccination is key.
- Wearing a mask (covering your nose and mouth) in any public indoor spaces is critical. When masks must be removed to eat or drink, this should be done in designated areas while maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet.
 - A good fit is important, if your mask gaps significantly, see [instructions for looping & tucking your mask](#).

The Delta variant is more contagious than previous strains—it may cause more than **2x as many infections**

ORIGINAL COVID-19 STRAIN	DELTA VARIANT
	

Vaccines protect you from hospitalization, severe infections, and death

For additional details see:

[Universal Mask Protocol for Workforce Members in Clinical and Non-clinical Buildings](#)
[Interim Masking Guidance](#)

TOWN HALL FAQs

Below are some of the many questions received at the vaccine town hall last week. We continue to work through all of the questions submitted and will provide more information as it becomes available.

Continue to monitor both the Ops Update and the [FAQs](#) for updates.

Q: How are medical and religious exemptions being handled?

A: Faculty, staff and learners seeking a medical or religious exemption to the U-M COVID-19 vaccine requirement must [submit a request through Wolverine Access](#) by Aug. 30.

Those requesting a medical exemption must provide an explanation of the medical conditions that would make it unsafe to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, such as a documented history of a severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine. The request must include documentation from a health care provider in support of the request. Any request without documentation will be declined.

Those seeking a religious exemption are asked to explain why their “sincerely held religious belief” precludes them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. While documentation is not required, the university is asking those requesting this exemption to include any supporting documentation that is relevant to the request, such as an additional written statement or written information provided by a religious or spiritual leader.

Exemption requests will be reviewed by designated U-M staff members from a number of units, including University Health Service, Student Life, Human Resources and Occupational Health Services, as well as representatives from all three campuses and the health system.

Individuals approved for an exemption will be required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing and adhere to the university’s face-covering policy, which currently requires masks indoors for unvaccinated individuals. Those whose requests are declined are required to follow the vaccination policy or be subject to administrative consequences, accountability actions and disciplinary procedures, which may include separation from the university.

Q: Will those employees who need to be weekly tested have to use their PTO or personal time to get tested?

A: Managers and supervisors are encouraged to be flexible and accommodating to employees when it comes to scheduling their vaccine and testing appointments. However, this may vary from unit to unit due to clinical and staffing needs. There may be situations where it would be best for employees to schedule their appointment before or after their shifts or during their breaks.

Q: Why are bargained for employees not required to be fully vaccinated or weekly tested?

A: The university is actively discussing vaccine requirements with each of the unions representing staff on the U-M campus and Michigan Medicine whose agreements require those

discussions. We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached in support of vaccination for these groups.

Q: Why is the University allowed to mandate a vaccine that isn't fully FDA approved at this time?

A: A highly vaccinated workforce provides the safest environment for workforce members and patients. The circumstances of the pandemic with increasing COVID-19 cases and development of more transmissible variants means there is urgency in vaccinating all who are eligible in order to prevent further COVID-19 infections that may be associated with severe disease or hospitalization. There is robust safety and efficacy data that has informed the emergency use authorization and hundreds of millions have received COVID-19 vaccines since the FDA emergency use authorizations were issued.

Q: If I have an adverse reaction to the vaccine, will I be able to use the COVID-19 PTO? Will a new time off bank be available?

A: If you experience serious illness resulting in lost work time as a result of any administered vaccine could be covered by your eligible paid time off programs which could include: PTO or vacation/sick, COVID-19 PTO or extended sick pay. PTO or vacation/sick time must be used first, followed by COVID-19 PTO (if available and eligible). Employees would follow our normal HR and Work Connections process. No additional time off banks will be added.

Q: Is the mandatory vaccination required by Michigan Medicine vendors and contractors? If so, what proof will be required before they're allowed on-site?

A: Yes, this policy applies to all vendors and contractors. Each vendor will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this new policy, even including the weekly testing for non-vaccinated workers.

HIT PAUSE: HOPE, INSPIRATION, GRATITUDE

In this spot, we will share stories of hope, inspiration and gratitude. Take a few minutes to pause and reflect:

Take a moment to read about the colleagues who were nominated for [Gold Medal awards](#) for their outstanding contributions to Michigan Medicine. Don't forget to [recognize](#) those who you appreciate for their dedication and hard work.

Weekly bulletins and policies are posted on Michigan Medicine Headlines at <https://mmheadlines.org/covid-19-updates/>. Please bookmark this site and refer to it for the most up-to-date information.