



COVID-19 UPDATE

Date: July 8, 2021
To: Our Akron Children's Hospital Physician/Provider Colleagues
From: Akron Children's Hospital COVID-19 Incident Command

This update includes changes to preprocedure COVID testing, CDC updates on RSV and guidance on post-vaccine myocarditis. We also have news on our Considine Building outpatient lab hours and availability of COVID testing at primary care sites.

Preprocedure COVID-19 Testing Update

Effective July 6, patients who are fully vaccinated against COVID will no longer be required to have a COVID test before a procedure. If a patient is younger than 12 or is eligible but has not received the vaccine, he or she must still be tested for COVID. Pre-operative and preprocedure testing for patients having surgery or a procedure at Akron Children's Hospital is available via scheduled appointment by calling 330-543-2778, or walk-in at our Akron and Mahoning Valley campuses or at our Health Centers in Boston Heights, Mansfield, North Canton and Warren.

Post-COVID Vaccine Myocarditis Update

Since the introduction of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, there have been several hundred reports of myocarditis in young recipients of the vaccine. At Akron Children's Hospital, we have had cases of post-vaccine myocarditis, including patients who have required inpatient admission. The following is a summary of what we know so far:

- Most patients have been previously healthy adolescent males.
- Symptoms generally begin within several days of having received the second dose of the vaccine.
- The clinical course in reported cases has generally been mild, meaning that patients have rarely progressed to critical illness requiring vasoactive medications or mechanical ventilation.

While estimated rates of COVID vaccine-related myocarditis are evolving as more cases are identified, this complication is extremely rare. Myocarditis has a much higher incidence as a complication of an actual COVID-19 infection or MIS-C. It is important to emphasize that, beyond age and gender, there are no other known risk factors at this point.

Pediatricians should remain vigilant for the following clinical findings occurring within 10 days of receipt of the second dose of the vaccine:

- a. Symptoms: chest pain or pressure that worsens with exertion; lightheadedness, palpitations, or syncope (without a compelling alternate diagnosis such as dehydration)
- b. Physical findings: tachycardia, especially out of proportion to anxiety or pain; abnormal heart rhythm, including gallop or ectopy; respiratory distress

Suspected myocarditis/pericarditis should be referred to the pediatric emergency department or nearest emergency department based on patient condition. If myocarditis is suspected, either in the primary care office or the ED, cardiology and infectious disease consultation should be sought early in the process.

There is no role for standalone testing, such as EKG or echocardiogram, to independently rule out myocarditis. We continue to recommend that providers remain familiar with the FDA's Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine. We also continue to recommend making the FDA's Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers available to patients and caregivers. Finally, it is important to emphasize that leading medical societies and public health officials continue to recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for this age group.

Sources:

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CDC Health Alert on Increased Interseasonal Respiratory Syncytial Virus

The CDC has issued a Public Health Alert considering an interseasonal RSV spike in the southern United States.

The typical winter RSV surge was notably absent in our pediatric population. Some countries in the southern hemisphere experienced an out of season spike in RSV cases.

Currently Akron Children's Hospital recommends a review of the CDC Health Alert, and we recommend paying particular attention to the details below:

1. Clinicians and caregivers should be aware of the typical clinical presentation of RSV for different age groups.
2. Using clinician judgement, providers may consider testing patients with a negative SARS-CoV-2 test and acute respiratory illness or the age-specific symptoms for non-SARS-CoV-2 respiratory pathogens, such as RSV.

To see the CDC's Public Health Alert, go to <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00443.asp>

COVID-19 Hotline Changes

As of June 28, we have transitioned our COVID-19-dedicated hotline to normal operations in Infection Control. The contact information for referring physicians who have questions about COVID-19 is now 330-543-5203 or infectioncontrol@akronchildrens.org.

COVID-19 Vaccines

We are adding options to our COVID-19 vaccine clinics. We are now providing vaccines at Urgent Care locations with an appointment. Find dates and locations to schedule an appointment for all eligible age groups at akronchildrens.org/covidvaccine.

Service Locations Update

The lab at our Considine professional Building has revised its hours.

- Hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Masking and Social Distancing Policies

Although Ohio's public health mandates ended June 2, Akron Children's Hospital is continuing to rely on the safety protocols that slow the spread of COVID-19 to protect our patients. We are continuing to screen all patients and visitors upon entering our facilities, requiring face masks for everyone over age 2 and medically able, promoting social distancing and handwashing, and encouraging those who are eligible to get the vaccine.



How to Refer to Akron Children's Hospital

1. **Outpatient Specialty Care:**
Use **EpicCare Link** for direct, streamlined referrals into our system. To sign up, call 330-543-6248 or email epiccarelink@akronchildrens.org.
Contact the **Appointment Center** by phone 330-543-2778 or fax 330-543-6071.
Complete the **Ambulatory Referral Order** form at akronchildrens.org/referral and click 'Send Request.'
2. **Admissions/Emergencies:** Call 800-221-5437 to arrange an admission or transport.
3. **COVID-19 Questions/Concerns:** Call 330-543-5203 or email infectioncontrol@akronchildrens.org

Contact our Physician Liaisons

Our team is always ready to help with any questions or concerns you have about our health care system.

- Lori Carsey (East) 330-606-6657
- Lynn Matzules (South) 330-715-5690
- Susan Manly (North) 330-697-1666
- Jennifer Stuart (West) 330-543-3453
- Pat Shallahamer (Central) 330-805-1764

