

Michelle Endresz

From: Heidi Chapman on behalf of Amy Tucker
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:20 PM
To: Amy Tucker
Cc: CMO BLASTS
Subject: CMO Blast: COVID cases are on the rise, please take appropriate precautions

Importance: High

Sent on behalf of our Infection Prevention Team...

There is increased Covid-19 activity and steadily rising hospitalizations in our region. Current Covid-19 infections in Central New York are almost all caused by the highly contagious BA.5 variant.

It is important to remain vigilant with hospital policies regarding proper use of PPE in clinical areas, and by following infection control procedures when caring for patients.

It is also important to continue masking in non-clinical areas where there is the potential for a high density of people.

Symptomatic staff should self-quarantine at home until Covid test results are available. If your home test is positive, stay home, isolate, and inform your Employee/Student Health at ESHealth@Upstate.edu or call [315-464-4260](tel:315-464-4260) (Downtown) or [315-492-5624](tel:315-492-5624) (Community). For symptoms seek medical care, if needed.

If a patient develops evidence of a potential infection during admission, consider Covid and test the patient immediately. Delayed testing of patients can contribute to increased transmission.

Vaccination with two doses of mRNA vaccine does not reduce the risk of infection with the BA.5 variant, but we believe will reduce your risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Three doses are superior to two doses in reducing these risks. If you have not received your third dose of vaccine, please consider doing so.

Questions about Covid symptoms, testing and vaccines: Call the Upstate Covid Employee and Student Resource Line at [315-464-8436](tel:315-464-8436).

Best,
Amy

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM
Chief Medical Officer
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine

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