

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

December 3, 2020

## Number of AAH COVID-19 Patients Discharged

14,335



December 3	System	Illinois	Lutheran	Wisconsin
In-house cases	1,079	627	113	452
In-house trend from previous day	-3.3%	-5.7%	-4.2%	.2%

Note the numbers are fluid. For the most updated information on active/fatal cases, visit the IL Dept of Public Health and WI Dept of Health Service

## COVID-19 Updates

- **COVID-19 Situation.** We continue to see significant hospitalization numbers and are closely monitoring for any impact of the Thanksgiving holiday. We continue to use our scale to address capacity challenges and allocate resources when and where needed. Staffing remains our biggest challenge and we continue to leverage our system labor pool, contracting with agencies and adjusting programs to redeploy staffing to help with our inpatient demand. Our PPE supply remains stable as we continue to increase our testing capacity to serve our team members, patients and communities.
- **Elective Surgeries.** To help augment staffing, many of our sites are scaling back inpatient electives by 50 percent, depending on local dynamics, so we can redeploy team members to provide the critical patient care needed during this time. Urgent and emergent surgeries and procedures continue to be available 24 hours a day, and it's critical that patients seek care when needed.
- **Vaccine Update.** As we anticipate the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization of a COVID-19 vaccine this month, we are following government and CDC recommendations to ensure fair and equitable distribution prioritizing those in higher risk categories first including frontline health care workers. Our greatest priority is to deliver the vaccine safely and thoughtfully in keeping with our Safe Care Promise. The vaccine is not mandatory for our team members, but we will be encouraging they get it to help protect themselves, our patients and others.
- **COVID-19 Testing.** We continue to increase our testing capacity and are conducting tens of thousands of COVID-19 tests across our system each week following evaluation by a provider. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or who believes they have been exposed, should visit our [Symptom Checker](#) or call our hotline at [866-443-2584](tel:866-443-2584) – both available 24/7 – to find out what to do next.
- **Convalescent plasma donations critically needed.** We continue to seek convalescent plasma donations from team members, clinicians and patients who have recovered from COVID-19 to help patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms. We are partnering with several organizations to refer for plasma collection. Check out our partners' websites for eligibility criteria and details to apply: [Illinois](#) | [Wisconsin](#).
- **AAH joins national #MaskUp campaign.** We have joined together with over 100 health systems in the national #MaskUp campaign, encouraging Americans to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by following clear and scientifically proven safety guidelines. Learn more [here](#).

## Advocate Aurora Health Updates

- **Flu Vaccinations.** It's not too late to get a flu shot, and this year it's more important than ever – [see why in our latest PSA](#). Consumers can schedule a flu shot on our [website](#) or through our LiveWell app, allowing them to find a location nearest them. Advocate Aurora team members are also required to get a flu vaccination as part of our efforts to keep our team members and patients safe.
- **Expanding Access to Video Visits:** As the COVID-19 surge continues, we recognize the urgent need for expanded access to convenient care for our communities. Effective Nov. 27, we've made a change to our Quick Care Video Visits to allow Medicare and Medicaid patients to use this service for virtual COVID-19 clinical evaluation and other health care services. These visits are provided by an Advocate Aurora Health provider and can be started in the LiveWell app or by visiting [advocateaurorahealth.org/virtual-visits](http://advocateaurorahealth.org/virtual-visits). Patients can also contact their primary care provider office to discuss other video visit options.

## News Your Communities Can Use

- **Helping kids cope with mental toll of pandemic.** This holiday season is going to look a bit different for everyone. Children may have trouble understanding and coping with these changes. Dr. Gabrielle Roberts, a pediatric psychologist at Advocate Children's Hospital, explains how parents can put "currency" back in their child's emotional piggy bank. [Watch here](#).
- **Honoring our team members.** More than nine months into this pandemic, our team members continue to rise the challenges of COVID-19, fighting for our patients and our communities. Recently we celebrated them with [this video](#) highlighting their strength, perseverance and heart.
- **Cold, flu or COVID-19?** We've updated our symptom checker to help consumers recognize the difference between symptoms of cold, flu and COVID-19. The [improved symptom checker](#) also helps triage patients to the right level of care. It's also available in [Spanish](#).



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with Advocate Aurora Health

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**COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER & SYMPTOM CHECKER**



[Guiding people through the pandemic and flu season](#)



**Help Center**

[Providing help on how to start video visits, use our LiveWell app and more](#)

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