

## Wins!

### ICYMI: South Side Collection Center Featured on *Good Morning America*

[The video features](#) **Ashley Ayres**, BS, CIC, infection prevention manager, who oversees the South Side COVID-19 specimen collection site with the help of hundreds of hospital volunteers.

### 'Simply the Best'

Over the past month, UPMC providers cared for existing and new patients using our robust UPMC telemedicine programs, *MyUPMC* and *UPMC Anywhere Care*. Many grateful patients shared their thanks for the exceptional care they are receiving via these programs and their incredible care providers.

[Read their remarks.](#)

### UPMC Joins National Convalescent Plasma Clinical Trial

UPMC announced Monday that it has joined a national clinical trial to give convalescent plasma to patients sick with COVID-19 and expects to be enrolling patients soon. UPMC is working with Vitalant (formerly Central Blood Bank) to collect plasma from altruistic donors who have recovered from previous COVID-19 infections. UPMC thoroughly screens these donors to make sure they are fully recovered and are producing antibodies to the virus, and then refers them to Vitalant to collect their plasma.

"It is a true testament to Pittsburgh's spirit of helping our neighbors that altruistic donors have already stepped up to give their plasma to help our hospitalized patients," said **John McDyer, MD**, principal investigator at UPMC for the convalescent plasma trial and director of UPMC's Lung Transplantation Translational Research Program. "We're excited to enroll COVID-19 patients in our hospitals very soon and are part of the national effort to collect data on whether and how giving convalescent plasma from COVID-19 survivors helps in the treatment of patients who are sick with COVID-19."

[Read more in the Tribune-Review.](#) For more information, email [c2p3@upmc.edu](mailto:c2p3@upmc.edu) or call 412-647-9779.

## REMAP Trial and Treatment Guidelines

Currently, **there is no known effective treatment option for COVID-19 other than supportive care.**

The goal of UPMC is to move toward treating all UPMC patients with COVID-19 in trials that allow for the accumulation of knowledge that will guide better management of this emerging pathogen. In the absence of data, all unapproved and unproven treatments should only be given in such a context. UPMC is now enrolling patients in the REMAP Trial.

[On the COVID-19 Treatment Options Infonet page](#), you can find:

- A REMAP Trial Cerner overview
- A REMAP COVID-19 FAQ
- A REMAP Trial Therapies Overview
- Pharmacist verification tips for COVID-19 mediations
- Inpatient and outpatient pharmacological treatment guidelines
- Medications not recommended for COVID-19 treatment
- Contacts for REMAP Trial and experimental or proposed therapy questions

## Rapid COVID-19 Test Not in Use

The UPMC laboratory team evaluates many tests, include one offering a rapid COVID-19 result at the bedside. The goal of this test was to seek an early *and* accurate answer to “Are you infected?”, including those without symptoms.

Based on initial assessments **the UPMC laboratory team cannot yet release the rapid test for clinical use.** The test was not able to reliably detect lower level viral loads that are common in asymptomatic patients.

Clinicians and providers should continue to order COVID-19 testing through the process outlined on Infonet:

- [Inpatient testing process](#)
- [Outpatient testing process](#)

## Get Up-to-Date and CMS-Required Patient Signage

Signs are an important way to keep our patients and visitors informed about our current policies. As policies change, the signage is updated accordingly. Refer to the [COVID-19 patient-facing signage Infonet page](#) for the most up-to-date signage.

This page contains ordering information for two CMS-required signs:

- [Coronavirus 7 Reminders](#)
- [Inpatient and Outpatient Visitor Restrictions](#)

Post these signs side by side in a public area.

## Wolff Center Command Center Call Schedule

Beginning **today, Monday, April 13**, the Wolff Center Command Center will be staffed from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week to answer COVID-19 related questions by health care providers. After 5 p.m., all non-urgent calls will be routed to a voice mailbox and will be retrieved at 7 a.m. the next day. Urgent physician-to-physician COVID-19 consults will still be accessible via MedCall, who will route the urgent call to the infectious disease physician on-call.

## Exposure Investigation Toolkit

The Wolff Center and Work Partners developed a toolkit to facilitate investigations and track facility exposures to the novel coronavirus. The toolkit contains work flows, contact tracing templates, talking points, and other resources to support exposure investigations.

Submit all exposure events to the Wolff Center’s email service account [WolffExposureResponseTeam@upmc.edu](mailto:WolffExposureResponseTeam@upmc.edu) via the intake form included in the toolkit. [The toolkit is also on the Infonet.](#)