ACHA COVID-19 Update: April 1, 2020

These updates have been provided by ACHA’s COVID-19 Task Force. Please forward this message to others on campus who may benefit. Non-members can subscribe to receive these and other messages here. We will continue to update the COVID-19 webpage with important alerts and resources.

**CDC Updated Testing Priorities**

CDC’s [updated evaluation and testing priorities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/testing-priorities.html) are much easier to use and have been formatted in a table and poster that could easily be incorporated within a policy and procedure.

- Level 1 Priority: Hospitalized patients; symptomatic health care workers
- Level 2 Priority: High risk people: patients in long term care facilities with symptoms, >65yo with symptoms; underlying conditions with symptoms, first responders with symptoms
- Level 3 Priority: Critical infrastructure individuals with symptoms, anyone else with symptoms, health care workers and first responders (without symptoms), people with mild symptoms depending on transmission in community
- Level 4 Priority: Asymptomatic people
- NOTE: Individual state and local departments of public health may have additional guidance for prioritizing tests.

**Alternate Care Sites**

With field hospitals and isolation sites emerging on campuses, hotels, gyms, fair grounds, and other creative places, the CDC released [guidance on alternative care sites](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-providers/alternative-care.html). The CDC states that “since care will be provided in a non-traditional environment, it is critical to ensure these facilities can support implementation of recommended infection prevention and control practices.” As outlined in the guidance, isolation sites are intended for individuals who don't require medical care, while alternative care sites are intended to provide medical care.

**Donating PPE and Other Supplies to Hospitals**

Campuses should consider donating unneeded supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical and lab supplies to local hospitals and health departments. Some of these supplies will exist in health centers; other campus sources include campus research laboratories, classrooms, and other settings.

NIH has clarified that [equipment purchased with an NIH grant can be donated](https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/insight/nih-guide-policy/19-022) and that “recipients may re-budget grant funds to repurchase supplies at a later date, use large unobligated balances, or submit an administrative supplement request to the funding IC.”

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FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization for Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine

The FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for hydroxychloroquine (plaquenil) and chloroquine for use in hospitalized teens and adults with COVID-19 who weigh >50kg (>110 lbs). The drugs are not FDA approved as safe or effective for COVID-19 but allowed when participation in a clinical trial is not feasible or trials are unavailable. Optimal dosing and duration of treatment is not known, but suggested dosing of hydroxychloroquine in this EUA is 800mg (divided doses) on day 1, followed by 400 mg daily for 4 to 7 days of total treatment. Baseline ECG, kidney, and liver function tests are recommended.

Hydroxychloroquine (200 mg three times a day for 10 days) in combination with azithromycin was shown in a small study published in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents to clear nasopharyngeal COVID-19 viral load. The azithromycin was used for its anti-inflammatory effect and not as an antibiotic. This article from the Annals of Internal Medicine highlighted the limitations of the research involving hydroxychloroquine and COVID-19 and discouraged its off-label use.

The bottom line is that more clinical data is needed.

FDA Authorizes Second Point-of-Care Test

The FDA gave Abbott Laboratories approval for its point-of-care test through the emergency use authorization (EUA) process. This test is reported to have positive results in 5 minutes and negative results within 13 minutes and is intended for physician offices, urgent care clinics, and hospitals. Their plan is to produce 5 million tests per month and to begin distribution next week.

ACHA Q&A Session: Mental Health in the COVID-19 Era

Friday, April 3, 2020 at 3:00 pm EDT

Join our presenters for a Q&A session on the topic of mental health in the time of COVID-19:

- Joy Himmel, PsyD, LCPC, NCC, RN, Former Director, Health & Wellness Center, Penn State University-Altoona, and Counseling Center Director, Ross University School of Medicine
- Eleanor Davidson, MD, MA, FACHA, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine and Adjunct Instructor, Bioethics and Medical Humanities, and Former Director, University Health Services, Case Western Reserve University
- Becky Fein, MPH, Director of Engagement and Training, Active Minds
- Daniel Eisenberg, PhD, S.J. Axelrod Collegiate Professor, University of Michigan School of Public Health, and Co-Principal Investigator, The Healthy Minds Network
- Sarah Ketchen Lipson, PhD, EdM, Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Public Health, and Co-Principal Investigator, The Healthy Minds Network
- Nance Roy, EdD, Chief Clinical Officer, The JED Foundation, and Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine

This session will be extended to 75 minutes, allowing more time for questions from attendees.

Registration is required. If you are unable to attend, please do not register as capacity is limited. The Q&A session will be recorded and uploaded to ACHA’s YouTube channel and will be available publicly. If you are unable to attend but have questions you’d like answered, feel free to submit your questions in advance here.

Archived webinars and Q&A sessions and a list of any upcoming events can be accessed through ACHA’s COVID-19 page. Past Q&A session topics include general updates and telehealth.

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ACHA and NFID Webinar: Preparedness and Response on U.S. College Campuses

April 15, 2020 at 1:00 pm EDT

Join the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) for a discussion on COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts on U.S. college campuses. Co-sponsored by the American College Health Association (ACHA), this webinar will address disease epidemiology and current guidance for college populations. NFID Medical Director William Schaffner, MD will moderate the discussion with ACHA COVID-19 Task Force members Michael Deichen, MD, MPH, Associate Vice President, Student Health Services, University of Central Florida, and Craig Roberts, PA-C, MS, Epidemiologist Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Register here.

Additional Educational Resources: Webinars and Podcasts

Institute for Healthcare Improvement Weekly Virtual Learning Hours

- Mobilizing to Respond to COVID-19: focuses on what we’re learning about effective responses to stressed health systems and overwhelmed (and often insufficiently protected) health care professionals. View the recorded session here.

- Preparing for a Surge of Hospitalized Patients: Friday, April 3, 10:00 am EDT. Register here. Note that the webinar is free, but you will need to create an account with IHI to register.

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement also has valuable COVID-19 guidance and resources for clinicians on their website.

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP)

COVID-19 - How We Got Here - Episode 1: This podcast from the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) with Dr. Michael Osterholm, leading epidemiologist and director of CIDRAP, and Chris Dall, CIDRAP news reporter, aired on March 24th and is the first in a series. Osterholm and Dall discuss how we got here and what to expect in the weeks and months to come, potential immunity after infection with the coronavirus, testing shortages, and finally, how we can support each other and be good neighbors in this new world. The podcast is available on the CIDRAP site, Spotify, and Google Play.

Association of Governing Boards

Presidents, Boards, and COVID-19: Governance Challenges and Advice: This webinar from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) examines the board and senior leadership roles with communication, staffing, finances, and decision-making. View the recorded session here.

See all updates here: https://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/COVID-19_Update.aspx