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ACHA COVID-19 Update: August 12, 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.

ACHA Infectious Diseases Virtual Summit

Call for Programs Deadline Is August 17

With the arrival of COVID-19, our nation was reminded of the tremendous toll that infectious diseases can have on our students and our learning communities. ACHA is currently seeking presenters for a virtual summit [Strategies to Prevent and Respond to College-based Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks](#), taking place this fall.

We're specifically looking for submissions that address the following:

- Campus response to COVID-19
- Updates to vaccine policies
- Planning and conducting mass vaccination programs
- Mitigating the possibility for an outbreak on campus
- Responding to an outbreak on campus

The goal of this summit is to provide learners with strategies on how they can prevent infectious disease on campus and to provide them with the knowledge they need to effectively contain these diseases when an outbreak occurs.

Submit a proposal [here](#).

ACHA COVID-19 Virtual Summit Session Recordings Available

If you missed ACHA's first virtual summit, [COVID-19: Planning for Now, Building for the Future](#), 17 hours of recorded sessions as well as slides for most sessions are [now available for purchase](#). ACHA members receive a 50% discount on the cost.

Please also see [this report](#) on the key takeaways from the general sessions, breakout sessions, and tabletop exercises.

Thank you to the event sponsors for their generous support. Learn more about them [here](#).

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Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

Reconstruction of the Full Transmission Dynamics of COVID-19 in Wuhan

This [accelerated article preview](#) from Nature describes a study that used statistical modeling to reconstruct transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 between January 1 and March 8 in Wuhan. Bottom line: The modeling demonstrated two key features of the outbreak: high transmissibility and high covertness, with up to 87% of infections asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic.

Resolve to Save Lives' Prevent Epidemics Science Review

The [Science Review](#) for the week of August 1-7 discusses the role of T cells in adaptive immunity to COVID-19, seasonal influenza during the COVID-19 pandemic, and weekly research highlights. Public health experts are concerned that a flu season converging on the COVID-19 pandemic will overwhelm the health care system. Notably, the masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing precautions may also be mitigating a significant flu season.

The [latest metrics](#) (as of August 11) updated the WHO surveillance definitions for a suspected and probable case since the last metrics publication on July 21.

COVID-19 Insights Partnership

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [announced](#) the formation of the COVID-19 Insights Partnership, an initiative to coordinate and share health data as well as research and expertise to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Insights Partnership creates a framework for HHS and VA to utilize DOE's world-leading high-performance computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence resources to conduct COVID-19 research and analyze health data.

Nine Things Learned About COVID

This Elemental [article](#) describes nine things we've learned about COVID-19 since it emerged:

- The virus can become airborne.
- Face masks are crucial for containment.
- The virus affects the whole body.
- Younger adults and children suffer, too.
- There is no seasonal effect.
- It's more deadly than the flu.
- It won't disappear on its own.
- Asymptomatic people can spread the virus.
- A vaccine is probable.

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Clinical Course and Viral Shedding in Asymptomatic vs Symptomatic COVID-19 Infected Individuals

In this cohort [study](#) that included 303 patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection isolated in a community treatment center in the Republic of Korea, 110 (36.3%) were asymptomatic at the time of isolation and 21 of these (19.1%) developed symptoms during isolation. The cycle threshold values of reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction for SARS-CoV-2 in asymptomatic patients were similar to those in symptomatic patients.

Many individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection remained asymptomatic for a prolonged period, and viral load was similar to that in symptomatic patients; therefore, isolation of infected persons should be performed regardless of symptoms.

Prevention and Treatment

Limiting COVID-19 Risks with New Technologies

Micah Griffin of the ACHA COVID-19 Task Force and Eleni Andreopoulou, Mark Coberly, and Christopher Longhurst participated in this Chronicle of Higher Ed webinar on ways to track the health of the campus community using telemedical and artificial-intelligence solutions. The webinar is [available on demand](#) (free; registration is required).

Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2

CDC updated its [guidance for return to work](#) to more closely align with its "Decision Memo" published July 22. Definitions for mild, moderate, severe, and critical illness are included.

Additional CDC Updates

- CDC updated [information on symptoms, testing, what to do if you are sick, and at risk groups](#).
- CDC updated information on [how to clean and disinfect a facility](#) after someone with COVID-19 has been in it.
- CDC updated its information "[Preventing Yourself and Others from Getting Sick](#)".
- CDC updated additional [public service announcements \(PSAs\)](#) on general COVID-19 everyday prevention actions, people who need extra precautions, and travel.

Low Cost Measurement of Face Mask Efficacy

This [study](#) published in Science Advances compared the efficacy of different masks by estimating the total transmitted droplet count using an inexpensive setup and a cell phone camera. Researchers tested 14 commonly available masks or masks alternatives, one patch of mask material, and a professionally fit-tested N95 mask. Speaking through some masks (particularly the neck fleece) seemed to disperse the largest droplets into a multitude of smaller droplets. Since smaller particles are airborne longer than large droplets (larger droplets sink faster), the use of such a mask might be counterproductive. The performance of the valved N95 mask is likely affected by the exhalation valve, which opens for strong outwards airflow. While the valve does not compromise the protection of the wearer, it can decrease protection of persons surrounding the wearer. In comparison, the performance of the fitted, non-valved N95 mask was far superior.

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How to Stay Germ-Free When Commuting

While we know it is impossible to remain germ-free, especially while commuting, this U.S. News Health [piece](#) provides tips for a safer commute now that more people are returning to in-person work. There is a nice graphic that identifies actions that should be "always" taken and those that should be done "when possible." These could be useful for campus transportation.

This New York Times [article](#) on the same topic uses animation to depict the air flow and filtering system inside a typical subway compartment and demonstrates the air flow scenarios of someone sneezing with and without a mask.

Vaccines

Vaccine Acceptance Pulse Survey

This Medscape [article](#) cites the latest results from the Yahoo News/YouGov poll of approximately 1,500 adults conducted July 28-30. Compared to previous polls, the percentage of individuals responding affirmatively to a question regarding COVID-19 vaccination is steadily declining since early May.

The question: If and when a coronavirus vaccine becomes available, will you get vaccinated?

"Yes" Responses:

- Early May: 55%
- Late May: 50%
- Early July: 46%
- Late July: 42%

Operation Warp Speed Fact Sheet

HHS released this [Fact Sheet: Explaining Operation Warp Speed](#). Operation Warp Speed (OWS) aims to deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19 by January 2021, as part of a broader strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics (collectively known as countermeasures).

However, this Medscape [article](#) tempers the expectations for a viable vaccine. Dr. Moncef Slaoui, chief advisor of OWS and General Gustavo Pena (chief operating officer, OWS) say the 300 million doses of vaccine will likely be available over the first six months of 2021, not in January.

Novavax's Adjuvant Vaccine Candidate

This [article](#) from MPR describes Novavax's vaccine candidate known as NVX-CoV2373. Findings demonstrate the vaccine is well tolerated and "elicited neutralizing antibody titers greater than those observed in a pool of COVID-19 patients with clinically significant disease."

HHS Partners with Texas A&M University to Increase Vaccine Manufacturing Capacity

HHS [announced](#) it has reserved the available advanced manufacturing capability and capacities of the Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing (CIADM) at the Texas A&M University System for use in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines. The task order to the CIADM includes accelerating expansion of that manufacturing capacity for potential COVID-19 vaccines.

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New York Times Vaccine Tracker

The New York Times continues to track vaccine development phases in this [interactive coronavirus vaccine tracker](#).

Testing and Tracking/Tracing

Why Antibodies May Not be the Only Key to Beating Coronavirus

This National Geographic [piece](#) discusses the immune response to SARS-CoV-2 infection and the roles of both the B (antibody) and T cells. Because testing for antibodies is easier via a blood test, T cell testing is not typically done. The article notes the quickly waning antibodies after an infection are not as critical as our T cell defenders.

Reopening

Higher Ed's COVID-19 Crisis: Opportunities for the Fall and Beyond

This Kaufman Hall [e-paper](#) provides a modified SWOT analysis of two models adopted by the majority of IHEs (fully remote or reopened with blended instruction and public health prevention measures). The paper analyzes five key areas of academic product mix and modality, student support, enrollment and revenue, operations, and external partnerships.

SimpsonScarborough Student Survey, Part III

In the third wave of [this study](#), conducted in late July, researchers wanted to see if students had become any more settled in their fall plans, gauge their perceptions of their institutions' reopening models, and ask how they will adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions when and if they do return to campus.

The key findings are:

- Enrollment is highly volatile
- Students don't fully trust their institutions or fellow students to keep them safe
- Students are worried, they'll contract the virus
- Issues of race and inequity are exacerbated by COVID-19
- Effective communications are essential for brand trust

This Inside Higher Ed [article](#) discusses the survey results, which show that the majority of new students want to remain remote, while the top choice for returning students is to return to campus in a hybrid model. SimpsonScarborough will discuss the survey in a [webinar](#) on August 13 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

CDC Releases Tool Kit for Young People

This [toolkit](#) for individuals aged 15-21 includes media messages, fact sheets, and web resources specific for this population. While not new, the contents are now packaged in one easily accessible spot.

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Remote Learning Guidance from State Education Agencies During COVID-19

This [review](#) of all 50 states' education agencies noted several "substantial areas of agreement" of remote learning across the state agencies including the need for learning support during closures, equity and access, attention to special needs (housing, food, mental health), special populations (students with disabilities, in foster care, incarcerated), and waivers for state-mandated assessments. The report also developed three recommendations:

- Continue to place issues of equity at the center of remote learning plans, with increased guidance for special populations
- Instructional guidance should acknowledge the challenges and constraints of home-based, remote learning
- Communicate clearly with multiple target audiences in mind.

List of College Reopening Plans

The Chronicle continues to [track individual colleges' reopening plans](#) and has partnered with Davidson College's College Crisis Initiative (C2i). The fall 2020 data includes opening plans of almost 3,000 IHEs and can be filtered by institution type, infrastructure, enrollment, endowment size, and several variables pertaining to athletics.

Mental Health

The Effects of Social Deprivation on Adolescent Development

This [viewpoint article](#) in The Lancet looks at the negative effects of social deprivation and physical distancing on adolescents (10-24 year olds). The use of digital interactions via social media may mitigate some of the detrimental effects.

Health Disparities

CDC Updates Health Equity Information

CDC updated [information on health equity](#) and published new information about how [systemic health and social inequities have put many racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk](#) of getting sick and dying from COVID-19. CDC released a [5-Page COVID-19 response health equity strategy](#) that focuses on accelerating progress towards reducing COVID-19 disparities and achieving health equity.

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

ACHA COVID-19 Page: <https://www.acha.org/COVID-19>



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