



AMERICAN  
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HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION

## ACHA COVID-19 Update: August 5, 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

Thank you to our many presenters, moderators, and attendees for participating in ACHA's first virtual summit, [COVID-19: Planning for Now, Building for the Future](#).

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

Attendees will receive available session slides and recordings. For those unable to attend, recordings will be available for purchase soon.

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

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## **ACHA Survey**

### **COVID-19 Member Survey and Monthly Metrics Collection**

The third COVID-19 survey is out and will be open until noon on Friday, August 7. Surveys have been sent to the ACHA representative (RMI) at each member institution or to the SHS Director at non-member institutions. New for this survey, one respondent will be randomly chosen to receive free registration to one of ACHA's upcoming summits: [Strategies to Prevent and Respond to College-based Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks](#) or [Closing the Gap: Strategies to Address Racial Inequity and Health Disparities on Campus](#).

These member surveys help ACHA better understand the burden of COVID-19 on campus health, counseling, and health promotion staff so we can better meet your needs. Additionally, starting with this survey, ACHA will begin collecting monthly metrics related to COVID-19 testing, use of isolation/quarantine beds, hospitalizations, and deaths. As usual, data will be de-identified and reported in the aggregate. Your participation in these data collection efforts is critical in ensuring our campuses receive the support they need and allows ACHA to work at a national level to make this happen.

## **Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology**

### **Aerosol and Surface Contamination of SARS-CoV-2 in Isolation and Quarantine**

This [study](#) looked at the initial isolation of 13 individuals with COVID-19 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Air and surface samples were collected to examine viral shedding from isolated individuals. Viral contamination was detected on surfaces such as bed rails and tables, supporting the use of airborne isolation precautions when caring for COVID-19 patients.

### **Resetting Our Response: Changes Needed in the U.S. Approach to COVID-19**

In this [document](#), the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security states frankly, "Unlike many countries in the world, the United States is not currently on course to get control of this pandemic. It's time to reset." Included are 10 recommendations to gain control of the pandemic and requires the collective actions of local, state, and federal policy actions.

### **Coronavirus Update with Eric Topol, MD**

In this AMA [interview](#), Eric Topol, MD, Scripps Research EVP and science health care and tech commentator, discusses the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Recorded July 23, 2020.

### **Resolve to Save Lives' Prevent Epidemics Science Review**

The [Science Review](#) for the week of July 25-31 discusses a [recent modeling study](#) that concluded that widespread epidemics of COVID-19 could be delayed and greatly reduced if enough people consistently practiced the 3 W's: Wear a mask, Wash your hands (or use hand sanitizer), and Watch your distance. The effect held true even if masks, hand-washing and physical distancing were only partially effective. The research also shows how these individual behaviors can limit the need for lengthy mandated lockdowns.

### **How to Think Like an Epidemiologist**

This New York Times [article](#) discusses how new evidence leads us to update our prior knowledge and beliefs and what this means in light of the pandemic.

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## Testing and Tracking/Tracing

### Testing Every Two Days May be Key to Safe Reopening

This [analytic modeling study](#) of a hypothetical cohort of 4990 college-age students without SARS-CoV-2 infection and 10 students with undetected asymptomatic cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection suggested that frequent screening (every 2 days) of all students with a low-sensitivity, high-specificity test might be required to control outbreaks with manageable isolation dormitory utilization at a justifiable cost.

In this modeling study, symptom-based screening alone was not sufficient to contain an outbreak, and the safe reopening of campuses in fall 2020 may require screening every 2 days, uncompromising vigilance, and continuous attention to good prevention practices.

The authors note that obtaining an adequate supply of testing equipment will be a challenge and also provide a cost-effectiveness and budget impact assessment.

### Testing Bottlenecks

According to this Reuters [article](#), the U.S. is currently testing a little fewer than 800,000 tests per day but should be performing an estimated 6-10 million tests. The bottleneck appears to be in the supply chain. The most sought-after machine has been Hologic's Panther which can process up to 1,000 tests in 24 hours. However, they can't produce enough test kits to meet the demand for the 1,100 existing machines in the country.

## Reopening

### Updated ACHA Reopening Checklist

The ACHA COVID-19 Task Force created two documents to assist with reopening operations, one specific to reopening medical services, and one to reopening mental health services. These resources were developed as a companion to the [ACHA Guidelines: Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era](#), and are intended to assist directors and staff in assessing their readiness and preparation for reopening as well as serve as a guidepost for reinstating and modifying services in the changed world of COVID-19. The checklist for reopening medical services was revised August 4, 2020, to include CDC updates on release from isolation criteria.

- [Checklist for Considerations Related to Reopening Campus Medical Service Operations](#)
- [Checklist for Considerations Related to Reopening Campus Mental Health Service Operations](#)

Please also see this [CDC collection of checklists](#) for health care professional preparedness.

### More Than 6,600 Coronavirus Cases Have Been Linked to U.S. Colleges

A New York Times [survey](#) of hundreds of schools represents the most comprehensive look at the toll the virus has already taken on the country's colleges and universities.

### The Way Forward on COVID-19: A Road Map to Reset the Nation's Approach to the Pandemic

This Association of American Medical Colleges [document](#) "focuses on a set of immediate, evidence-based, commonsense actions the AAMC believes is essential to contain the virus and end the pandemic by addressing critical shortages, improving and broadening testing, reducing the virus's spread, reopening schools safely, expanding health insurance coverage, and prioritizing distribution of the vaccine. It also identifies longer-term actions that must be taken to protect and strengthen public health, reduce health disparities, and improve the overall health of our nation and its people."

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## Demand Still Outstripping PPE Supply

This CIDRAP [article](#) covers the persistent problems with obtaining PPE. Hospitals are stockpiling available supplies, and demand is mounting from nursing homes, assisted living facilities, primary care doctors, and other frontline workers. The White House COVID-19 supply chain task force suggests the anticipated 30 million N95 mask shortfall could be managed by reusing N95s after decontamination with the concentrated hydrogen vapor process and gowns could also be reused. In reality, production needs to be stepped up.

## List of College Reopening Plans

The Chronicle of Higher Education continues to [track individual colleges' reopening plans](#).

## Vaccines

### Audio Interview: New SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Results

In this [audio interview](#) conducted on July 29, 2020, the NEJM editors are joined by virologist Peter Piot, who talks about his own experience with COVID-19, as well as recent developments in SARS-CoV-2 vaccines.

### New York Times Vaccine Tracker

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

## Mental Health

### Preparing for Student Mental Health Needs

This [article](#) from the Chronicle provides a to-do list to help counseling centers get ready for the surge of students who will seek help when classes resume amid COVID-19.

## Health Disparities

### Racial Divide in COVID-19 Costs

This West Health and Gallup [study](#) is based on 1,017 interviews conducted with U.S. adults from June 8-30, 2020. Of the respondents, 58% of non-White adults versus 32% of White adults report that they are either "extremely concerned" or "concerned" about being able to pay for the cost of care if they are diagnosed with COVID-19. Other highlights: Non-White adults about twice as likely to stay in unwanted job for benefits, and reports of medication insecurity are on the rise, with the burden has been more heavily borne by non-White adults than by White adults.

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