



AMERICAN
COLLEGE
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

ACHA COVID-19 Update: December 16, 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.

Fourth Survey Report on Health Centers' Pandemic Operating Status and Response Available

ACHA's COVID-19 Task Force's [fourth COVID-19 survey](#), conducted October 9-30, 2020, focused on campus mitigation efforts including testing strategies, quarantine/isolation monitoring, contact tracing, and pauses in campus activity to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Results from the previous three surveys are also [available](#). Some findings include:

- Approximately 84% of respondents provided on-campus SARS-CoV-2 testing in some capacity, with less than 40% of respondents requiring a negative pre-arrival test result or participation in on-arrival testing.
- Testing resources were focused on symptomatic students, exposed students, and asymptomatic students as well as faculty and staff and special populations including student-athletes, fraternity/sorority members, and residential students.
- There was no relationship found between various testing strategies and the demographics of the responding institutions in terms of size or geographic location.
- Those respondents who did not do on-campus testing cited lack of human resources, costs of tests, and the availability of off-campus resources for testing as reasons.
- While SARS-CoV-2 testing was adopted by most respondents as a mitigation strategy, less than 20% of respondents indicated using wastewater surveillance or suspension of operations/lockdowns as part of their plan.

ACHA COVID-19 Virtual Summit 2: 344 Days and Counting

Session Recordings Will Be Available Soon

For those that were unable to attend the recent ACHA COVID-19 Virtual Summit 2, recordings will be available soon to purchase for \$100 for ACHA members and \$200 for non-members. Please note that we are unable to offer CE credit for the recordings. See session and CE credit details [here](#).

Looking for more ways to get CE credit? There are [more than 50 on-demand continuing education programs](#) in ACHA's Education Center, with CME, CNE, CHES, MCHES, PsyCE, CPEU, and/or ACPE credits available (not all programs offer all credit types).

Thank you to our generous event sponsors:



binx health, Inc.



(Continues on next page)

CDC Updates

CDC MMWR: ACIP Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

CDC released this MMWR [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) following the FDA's issuing of an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. ACIP issued an interim recommendation for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged ≥ 16 years for the prevention of COVID-19. The recommendations should be implemented in conjunction with ACIP's interim recommendation for allocating initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccines. See CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine [here](#).

Post-Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel (HCP)

This [CDC publication](#) identifies the need for health care facilities to appropriately evaluate and manage post-vaccination signs and symptoms among HCP and importantly to distinguish post-vaccine adverse effects from new SARS-CoV-2 infection. See the section "Suggested approaches to evaluating and managing new-onset systemic post-vaccination signs and symptoms in HCP." Positive viral (nucleic acid or antigen) tests for SARS-CoV-2, if performed, should **not** be attributed to the COVID-19 vaccine, as vaccination does not influence the results of these tests.

Healthcare Professionals: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination

CDC has updated [clinical resources for each COVID-19 vaccine](#) as well as information about the v-safe app, training tools for healthcare providers and staff, and guides for effective communication with patients about the vaccine and the virus. The CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit provides ready-made materials you can use to inform healthcare providers, staff, and patients. The toolkit includes FAQs, slides, posters, stickers, video and social media templates for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

How Many Undetected Cases Are There?

The Prevent Epidemics [Weekly Science Review](#) for November 14-December 4 features an article on estimating the true number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. Models suggest one out of every 40 people is currently infected and there are at least two undetected infections/each detected case. The article lists three ways to estimate the true number of cases and the case detection ratio (CDR): (1) extrapolate from seroprevalence data, (2) use the number of confirmed cases and adjust using the proportion of asymptomatic cases and factors that influence the CDR, and (3) back-calculate using COVID-19 death data. Authors estimated that the [6,891,764 cases of symptomatic COVID-19 confirmed in the U.S. actually represented 52,885,526 total infections](#), implying that only 13% of infections (1 in every 8) were identified.

Prevention and Treatment

University of Arizona Campus Health Service Wins Top Honors at APIC Film Festival

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) hosts an [annual film festival](#) to promote infection control. This year's winner was the University of Arizona Campus Health Service's film, "[Handwash Lately?](#)", a fun parody of the song "Ice Ice Baby" and which emphasizes the value of hand hygiene for patients and health care personnel.

(Continues on next page)

Vaccines

FDA Gives Guidance on Allergy, Pregnancy Concerns for Pfizer COVID Vaccine

This [Medscape article](#) clarifies the guidance on administration of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for people with allergies and for those who are pregnant. The fact sheet for health care providers includes a statement, "Do not administer Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to individuals with known history of a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine."

Reportedly, this applies only to people with severe reactions to vaccines and not those with reactions to other medications, foods, latex, environmental, or seasonal allergies. COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant or breastfeeding women is not as clear. Data are not yet available on those two categories and should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker

[V-safe is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health checks](#) after someone receives the COVID-19 vaccine. Once registered, the vaccine recipient will receive a daily text reminder to check in and answer survey questions about health. Depending on their answers, someone from CDC may call. V-safe will also remind recipients when to get the follow-up vaccination.

APHA and National Academy of Medicine Webinar: Vaccines – The Realities of the Next Steps

During [this webinar](#) from December 9, 2020, a panel of leading public health experts discussed the next steps for ensuring COVID-19 vaccines reach the public, including overcoming vaccine hesitancy, ensuring a robust supply chain, and communicating clearly and consistently throughout.

A Nursing Researcher's Experience in a COVID-19 Vaccine Trial

In [this JAMA article](#), nursing researcher Kristin Choi details her experience as a research participant in the Pfizer vaccine trial. The first injection went well with only minimal arm soreness. The second injection was followed by a number of adverse reactions including fever to 104.9, chills, nausea, dizziness, and significant pain at the injection site. Twenty-four hours later all that remained was mild arm soreness. Her suggestion is to ensure health care professionals are prepared to explain the expected side effects.

KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: December 2020

This [Kaiser Family Foundation \(KFF\) survey](#), conducted in December, compared various aspects of vaccine confidence and hesitancy and trusted messages and messengers in comparison to the last survey performed in September. The December survey finds 71% of respondents would definitely or probably get vaccinated compared to 63% in September. About a quarter (27%) remains vaccine hesitant. Those most likely to be vaccine hesitant are Republicans (42%), those aged 30-39 (36%), rural residents (35%), and Black adults (33%). People's own health care providers are at the top of the list of most trusted sources of reliable information on vaccines. The survey report also covers tailoring communication strategies to different groups.

Testing and Tracking/Tracing

The Impacts of Testing Cadence, Mode of Instruction, and Student Density on Fall 2020 COVID-19 Rates on Campus

This [preprint article from medRxiv](#) looks at COVID-19 infection rates among undergraduates at 13 colleges and universities (nine in the Boston area and four outside Boston) and the relationship to type of instruction, number of students living in the residence halls, and testing cadence. The study evaluated only those schools that PCR-tested residential students at least once a week.

(Continues on next page)

The study showed no correlation between rate of infection and type of teaching (in-person, hybrid, remote), number of students on campus, or residence hall occupancy but demonstrated evidence that testing two or three times per week is correlated with lower infection rates than is weekly testing.

Note: Preprints are preliminary reports of work that have not been certified by peer review. They should not be relied on to guide clinical practice or health-related behavior and should not be reported in news media as established information.

COVID-19 Testing Impact Calculator

This [modeling tool](#) provides a means to calculate costs associated with different testing options and incorporates mask usage, contact tracing, limiting group activities, and unmasked group activities, such as dining.

FDA Authorizes Antigen Test as First OTC At-Home Diagnostic Test for COVID-19

The Ellume COVID-19 Home Test, a rapid lateral flow antigen test that detects protein fragments from SARS-CoV-2 virus, [has received an EUA from FDA](#). It is indicated for those age 2 or older. This is a non-prescription test that can be performed completely at home and requires a mid-turbinate nasal swab. It uses an analyzer that connects with a software application via a smartphone and results are delivered in 20 minutes. It correctly identified 96% of positive samples and 100% of negative samples in individuals with symptoms. In people without symptoms, it correctly identified 91% of positive samples and 96% of negative samples. According to FDA Commissioner, Stephen Hahn, "Today's authorization is a major milestone in diagnostic testing for COVID-19. By authorizing a test for over-the-counter use, the FDA allows it to be sold in places like drug stores, where a patient can buy it, swab their nose, run the test and find out their results in as little as 20 minutes." Anticipated cost is \$30 or less.

College Campuses

- [Tracking Coronavirus Cases at U.S. Colleges and Universities](#) (New York Times)
- [Monitoring the Coronavirus Outbreak in Metro Areas Across the U.S.](#) (New York Times)
- [College Crisis Initiative \(C2i\)](#) (Davidson College)
- [Campuses Mandating Flu Vaccine](#) (Immunization Action Coalition)

Colleges, COVID-19 Dashboards & Transparency: Practical Approaches to Prepare for 2021

December 17, 2020, at 12:00 PM ET

As the fall semester comes to an end, We Rate Covid Dashboards convenes public health experts to examine how colleges and universities presented COVID-19 on their dashboards, and how to prepare for the next semester. In the first half of this event, they will discuss essential dashboard components and considerations for the future. In the second half, data visualization experts from their team will share tools and templates that schools can use to develop or improve their own COVID dashboards.

[Register here.](#)

Webinar Recording Now Available: Using Social Media to Promote COVID-19 Mitigation Behaviors among College and University Students

The archived CDC webinar "Using Social Media to Promote COVID-19 Mitigation Behaviors among College and University Students" is now available [at this link](#).

Because the webinar had to be cut short without a question and answer session, CDC has collected written answers from the panelists to some of the top-priority questions. This document is also provided at the above link.

(Continues on next page)

Campus Telehealth Webinar Recordings Available

ACHA partnered with the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers (NCTRC) to bring you two important webinars last week. Click below to view the webinars and the slides.

- Building Lasting Telehealth Programs on College Campuses: view the [webinar recording](#) and download [slides](#)
- Setting Your Campus Telemental Health Program Up for Long Term Success: view the [webinar recording](#) and download [slides](#)

How Three Big Universities Stifled COVID on Campus

This University Business article piece [highlights the successes](#) of University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Georgia Tech, and Purdue in their response to the pandemic. Testing seemed to be the common denominator. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign tested 50,000 students twice a week using saliva-based kits and supplemented efforts with the Safer Illinois app for rapid notification. Georgia Tech also used technology, with a My Test website and ratcheted up testing, and Purdue focused on positivity data and contact tracing.

Mental Health

New Pulse Point Survey of College Presidents Shows Increase in Mental Health Concerns, Ongoing Impact of COVID-19

The American Council on Education released its [latest pulse survey](#) of 268 college and university presidents. The survey was conducted November 10-17, and ACE consulted with ACHA's COVID-19 Task Force regarding questions to include in the survey. The two most pressing issues for presidents are the mental health of students (68%) and the mental health of faculty and staff (60%). Forty percent of presidents cited spring enrollment numbers as most pressing.

- In order to address growing concerns over mental health, college and university leaders are implementing different strategies to support the mental health and well-being of their campus community. Presidents were asked to select from a list of 12 strategies those that their institution has implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:
- Over half of presidents (59 percent) reported that their institution has “invested in virtual or tele-therapy services and/or tele-psychiatry,” the most commonly implemented strategy.
- Slightly less than half of presidents reported that their institution has “implemented new student engagement strategies to provide students with resources on mental health and well-being” (47 percent) and “expanded campus access to digital mental health programs and promotion platforms” (43 percent).
- Over one-third of presidents reported their institution had “expanded mental health resources through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for faculty and staff and/or encouraged utilization of this program” (36 percent), and that they had “held listening sessions with faculty and staff to hear their concerns about their own mental health and well-being” (34 percent).

Read more [here](#).

Mental Health Task Forces in Higher Education

ACE also released a [synthesis and analysis of 16 public-facing mental health task force reports](#) augmented by interviews with task force leaders. ACE reviewed 469 final recommendations from the 16 task force reports and categorized them into eight themes:

(Continues on next page)

- Improve communication about mental health
- Institutionalize structures to support or further work on mental health
- Provide training around mental health
- Create or enhance mental health programs and initiatives
- Enhance, improve or create mental health services
- Hire or create positions
- Develop new or improve existing policies
- Develop or improve existing protocols or procedures

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>



AMERICAN
COLLEGE
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION