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## ACHA COVID-19 Update: July 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.*

### ACHA COVID-19 Virtual Summit

#### Registration Now Open for ACHA's Virtual Summit

No matter what your role on campus is, now is the time to think creatively about keeping students, faculty, and staff physically and mentally healthy, and what campus health and well-being looks like in the era of COVID-19 and beyond. ACHA, in partnership with the American Council on Education (ACE), is hosting a two-day [virtual summit](#) delving into the many topics that must be considered when preparing for the fall, complete with valuable, actionable takeaways. Learn about national health guidance and recommendations, collaborate with other institutions, and come away with crucial insights to prepare your campus for the upcoming semester.

The event will take place July 28–29, from 12:30–4:30 pm EDT each day. ACHA members are eligible for discounted registration. Act now—registration ends July 21!

### Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

#### Resolve to Prevent Epidemics Metrics and Science Review

The Resolve to Prevent Epidemics [newsletter](#) includes updated metrics as of June 26, 2020.

The group's [Science Review](#) for the week of June 13-20 covers reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other topics related to COVID-19 in children.

#### MMWR Early Release on UT Austin Students' Spring Break Trip

This CDC early release [article](#) discusses a group of UT Austin students who traveled together on a chartered plane to Cabo San Lucas for spring break. CDC gives credit to collaboration between local public health and UT Austin's student health center in quick response with contact tracing and containment. The article states:

During contact tracing interviews, Cabo San Lucas travelers reported sharing housing in both Mexico and upon return to Austin. The proximity created by this shared housing likely contributed to transmission through ongoing exposure and reexposure to SARS-CoV-2. This pattern of social interaction, in which residents gather frequently to socialize and share facilities, is common among many college-aged persons and might lead to propagated spread, similar to the continued person-to-person transmission observed in long-term care facilities. The impact of shared housing and prolonged exposure experienced by the college-aged Cabo San Lucas travelers highlights the importance of universities and schools considering how to align students' living arrangements with CDC recommendations for living in shared housing as they plan to reopen.

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## Projections on Deaths With and Without Face Coverings

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) released its first [projections](#) comparing different actions to control SARS-CoV-2 transmission. High levels of mask wearing (>95%) would decrease forecasted deaths by approximately 33,000. A state-by-state account of deaths with and without masking is included.

## CDC Updates Medical Conditions Associated with Increased Risk for Severe Disease

CDC released its updated [list of medical conditions](#) which are associated with increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19 which includes: CKD, COPD, immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant, obesity (BMI>30), serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, type 2 DM. There is a secondary list for medical conditions that might place individuals at increased risk for severe disease. That list includes pregnant women, smokers, asthmatics, and people with cerebrovascular disease, cystic fibrosis, HTN, immunosuppression from all other reasons (besides organ transplant), neuro conditions, liver disease, pulmonary fibrosis, thalassemia, type 1 DM.

## CDC Removes Age 65 as Risk for Severe Disease

CDC removed the specific [age of 65](#) or greater as an independent risk and replaced it with "the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk."

## CDC Updates Symptoms

Fever or chills and runny nose and congestion, and GI symptoms are now included in the [list of common symptoms](#) of COVID-19.

## Testing and Tracking/Tracing

### CDC Releases Testing Guidance for IHEs

On June 30, CDC released [Interim Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#), describing scenarios when IHEs may need to conduct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing for students, faculty, or staff, though ultimate determinations for such a test rest with IHEs in consultation with local health officials. Of note, CDC states the following, which aligns with ACHA's [brief](#) on mass testing

Testing of all students, faculty and staff for COVID-19 before allowing campus entry (entry testing) has not been systematically studied. It is unknown if entry testing in IHEs provides any additional reduction in person-to-person transmission of the virus beyond what would be expected with implementation of other infection preventive measures (e.g., social distancing, cloth face covering, hand washing, enhanced cleaning and disinfection). Therefore, CDC does not recommend entry testing of all returning students, faculty, and staff.

### Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic through Testing

Howard Hughes Medical Institute put out this [summary](#) of testing and reviews the timeline throughout the pandemic and has some nice graphics on antibody and PCR tests. Bottom line: we need to do more testing.

## Reopening

### Survey of College and University Presidents, Part III

This Inside Higher Ed [survey](#) of presidents and chancellors at 2- and 4- year public and private colleges and universities is the third in a monthly series since April 2020. Only 97 campuses participated in this survey, but continued or increasing concerns of unbudgeted financial expenses, disproportionate impact on disadvantaged students, and meeting mental health demand topped the list of presidential concerns.

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## Survey of Students

This national [survey](#) with 976 college and university student responses over the week of May 18th offered suggestions to campus leadership on how they can be proactive to ensure students' health and safety. In order of frequency of suggestions: cleaning and disinfecting, testing and temp checks, offering online classes, and wearing masks and gloves. Students also noted communication as critical.

## Addressing Community Needs

This NEJM [article](#) reviews community needs in an already strained health care and social systems. It notes five major resource needs (food, mental health, substance and abuse services, childcare, curated and accurate resource mapping, community focused workforce) and lack of community resources.

## Prevention and Treatment

### JAMA Viewpoint: Dual Epidemics COVID-19 and Influenza

This [article](#) on "fluvid" (the confluence of influenza and COVID-19) by Lawrence Gostin, JD, and Daniel Salmon, MPH, PhD, is a short piece discussing strategies for increasing flu vaccine coverage to decrease disease burden and hospitalizations due to flu and preserve critical resources for continued COVID-19 disease. Their strategies include incentivizing vaccine production, increasing demand through an evidence-based mass communication campaign, and ensuring safe access, with mandates used only as a last resort.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Snapshot

This brief [article](#) from NPR provides a snapshot of the different approaches that manufacturers are taking to race towards a viable vaccine.

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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