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ACHA COVID-19 Update: July 29, 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

Highlights from the General Sessions

The ACHA Virtual Summit, [COVID-19: Planning for Now, Building for the Future](#), began on July 29 and concluded July 30. Here are some of the highlights from the general sessions:

Keynote Featuring Dr. Zeke Emanuel: Calling it a "tall order," Dr. Emanuel challenged campuses to show the nation how to safely reopen. To do this, we must educate students to self-manage responsibly, and everyone must understand that this is a collaborative exercise. We need to create a shared understanding of what the new norms are and the proper way to approach activities, such as wearing face coverings, enforcing physical distancing, hand hygiene, limiting time inside, and improving ventilation in classrooms. Enforcement can only be effective with the right norms.

Leadership starts from the top with university presidents, administrators and student leaders modeling appropriate behavior.

Dr. Emanuel also touched on mental health noting that even the most privileged like himself felt stressed during this time. Imagine what it is like for those less privileged. He suggested we engage our students to make them feel part of the community and acknowledge and normalize their feeling stressed during this time.

Presidential Panel: The presidential panel speakers provided their insights on their decisions for the upcoming semester, sharing their guiding principles, which were very similar but led to different decisions at each institution. They also discussed the unbudgeted costs of reopening for their schools.

CDC COVID-19 Primer: Two CDC speakers gave an overview of current epidemiology and a quick gleaning of information on IHEs. Displaying a map of the U.S. with the southeast and the sunbelt states on fire, Dr. Hannah Kirking followed that up with a map of the U.S. showing individual counties with varying rates of infection and stating the adage, "all epidemiology is local." Overall hospitalization rate for the U.S. is 120.9 per 100,000 and for 18-29 year olds 47.1 per 100,000. Dr. Leigh Szucs acknowledged there is very little data/evidence on COVID-19 related to colleges and universities since most closed in-person instruction in the spring. She described four layers of mitigation strategy: promoting behaviors that decrease spread, maintaining healthy environments, maintaining healthy operations, and preparing for when someone gets sick. She also displayed the high to low risk slides related to instruction and residence halls.

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



Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

Additions to List of Medical Conditions Increasing Risk of Severe Illness from COVID-19

CDC updated the [list](#) of underlying medical conditions that put individuals at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Cancer was added to the primary list and pediatrics was added to the list that is described as limited evidence.

CDC Director Sets the Record Straight on Number of Cases

Clarifying the national media reports stating that there were 24 times more SARS-CoV-2 cases than reported, CDC Director Robert Redfield suggested in this [statement](#) that the single state that reported 23.8 times more cases than reported may have been due to underreporting or fewer tests performed. CDC estimates that there were 10 times more cases than reported in March through May.

Resolve to Save Lives' Prevent Epidemics Metrics and Science Review

The [Science Review](#) for the week of July 18-24 covers updates on COVID-19 vaccine development, antigen testing, and pooled testing.

Testing and Tracking/Tracing

NIH RADx (Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics) Initiative

This NEJM [article](#) describes the RADx program's goals, initiatives, and focus on underserved populations. NIH launched RADx to support the development, production scale-up, and deployment of accurate, rapid SARS-CoV-2 tests across the country. "The RADx initiative was conceived by Congress to provide near-term solutions to increase the number of tests available by the fall of 2020, as schools and universities evaluate the safety of in-person classes and as the annual influenza season begins." One goal is to increase capacity to test 2% of the population (6 million people) daily by December 2020.

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CDC's Guidance for Pooled Testing

CDC updated this [guidance](#), but it is unclear what they modified. They begin with the appropriate use of testing including diagnostic, screening, and surveillance testing and then provide parameters for pooling testing for diagnostic, screening, and surveillance. Important concept: pooled testing should be used only in areas where prevalence is expected to be low; otherwise, it negates all the benefits of sparing reagents.

Potential Testing Scenarios

This Chronicle of Higher Ed [article](#) discusses many potential scenarios for schools to perform entry testing followed by regular follow-up testing and the value of pooled testing in low prevalence areas. The author (who works for a private testing company) has a four-step suggestion:

1. Test everyone before or immediately upon arrival.
2. Test everyone again in a week.
3. Test symptomatic and exposed individuals.
4. Test asymptomatic individuals regularly.

Reopening

Considerations for a Safe Return to Campus

This [article](#) covers an innovative perspective to returning to campus as provided by a group of environmental engineers, aerosol scientists, and public health experts. Using their framework of removing, replacing, isolating, changing, and protecting, they provide several key concepts in a least to most effective strategies pyramid.

Controlling Student Spread of COVID-19

This Chronicle of Higher Ed [article](#) describes the difficulty in trying to control the behavior of students on campus and especially off campus. Enforcement strategies and citations, sanctions, probation, and pledges are discussed.

Feasibility of Separate Rooms for Home Isolation and Quarantine

This Annals of Internal Medicine [article](#) looked at 57,984 dwellings in the most recent American Housing Survey. They found more than 1 in 5 U.S. homes, housing about one quarter of all Americans, lack sufficient space and bathrooms to comply with isolation or quarantine and limit household spread of COVID-19. "This proportion is particularly high among homes occupied by minority and poor individuals and among apartments, a pattern that mirrors both the high incidence of COVID-19 in those groups and racial discrimination in access to housing that was federal policy until the 1960s and, unfortunately, persists today." One recommendation was to house individuals requiring isolation/quarantine in hotels.

CDC Develops Natural Disaster, Severe Weather, and COVID-19 Site

This [CDC site](#) has a number of resources for planners and individuals who are victims of natural disasters.

Interactive Map: Event Risk Assessment Tool

This [map](#), created by Georgia Tech, provides a look at the likelihood of someone at an event infected with COVID-19 based on location and the size of the event. Note that there are some limitations to this tool.

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List of College Reopening Plans

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

Prevention and Treatment

CDC Revises Isolation Precautions

CDC released new isolation guidelines changing the duration of isolation from 10 days after symptom onset plus at least 3 days of no fever without the use of antipyretics and decreasing symptoms to 10 days plus 24 hours of being fever free without the use of antipyretics and improving symptoms. WHO has not changed its guidelines. See these links:

- [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19](#)

Who Is Wearing Masks?

This [interactive map](#) shows rates of mask-wearing across the country, with higher rates of mask-wearing in the northeast and out west and spottier in the south.

New York Times Vaccine Tracker

The New York Times has created an [interactive coronavirus vaccine tracker](#) to quickly see which development phase vaccines are in.

Health Disparities

Race, Class, and Minority Serving Institutions

This Chronicle of Higher Ed panel held on July 23 featured Twyla Baker, president of Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College; Walter Kimbrough, president of Dillard University; and William Serrata, president of the El Paso County Community College District as they discussed the experience of minority serving institutions. A [recording](#) is available (free registration is required to access the recording).

Structural Racism, Social Risk Factors, and COVID-19

This NEJM [article](#) is a summary of structural racism and its effects on health. Strikingly, "the relationship between structural racism and health is not moderated by age, sex, birthplace, or education, which suggests that efforts to address it must target the entire population."

The authors recommend 6 actions:

- Change policies that keep structural racism in place.
- Break down silos and create cross-sector partnerships.
- Institute policies to increase economic empowerment.
- Fund community programs that enhance neighborhood stability.
- Be consistent in efforts by health systems to build trust in vulnerable communities.
- Test and deploy targeted interventions that address social risk factors.

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Civil Rights Protections Prohibiting Race, Color, and National Origin Discrimination During COVID-19

The HHS Office of Civil Rights issued this [bulletin](#) reminding providers not to discriminate against individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups as they make treatment decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic per Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The bulletin also detailed current efforts across the HHS to address COVID-19-related health inequities.

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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