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## ACHA COVID-19 Update: June 17, 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.*

### Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

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

The Resolve to Prevent Epidemics [newsletter](#) includes updated metrics as of June 12, 2020.

The group also released its [Science Review](#) for the week of June 6-12, which includes sections on COVID-19 and MMR vaccine, ABO blood type, smoking and vaping, and more.

### Health Disparities

#### NEJM Podcast on COVID-19 and Minority Communities

In this [audio interview](#) conducted on June 10, 2020, the NEJM editors are joined by Dr. Michele Evans of the National Institutes of Health to discuss a new study examining the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on minority communities.

#### CDC Data on Death Rates and Communities of Color

The Brookings Institute looked at new CDC data on death rates and provided [this summary](#) of reasons why COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting communities of color. The article states, "Black people are dying from COVID at roughly the same rate as white people more than a decade older. Age-specific death rates for Hispanic/Latino people fall in between. These disparities can be seen more clearly by comparing the ratio of death rates among Black and Hispanic/Latino people to the rate for white people in each age category. Among those aged 45-54, for example, Black and Hispanic/Latino death rates are at least six times higher than for whites."

### Testing and Tracking/Tracing

#### Red Cross to Perform Free Antibody Testing

The Red Cross will perform free [antibody testing](#) to anyone donating blood or platelets. If the donor is positive for antibodies to SARS CoV-2, they may be eligible to take part in the [convalescent plasma donation program](#).

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## **CDC Releases New/Revised Testing Guidance**

While [this guidance](#) does not include guidance for IHEs, it discusses testing for the following categories:

1. People with signs and symptoms of COVID-19
2. Asymptomatic people with recent known or suspected contact/exposure to control transmission
3. [Asymptomatic people with recent known or suspected contact/exposure](#) for early identification in special settings (long term care facilities, correctional and detention facilities, homeless shelters, other congregate work or living settings, high density critical infrastructure workplaces)
4. Testing to determine resolution of infection
5. Public health surveillance of SARS CoV-2

The third example could include residence halls, though it is expected that once CDC releases IHE guidance, residence halls will be specifically addressed.

## **CDC Releases Contact Tracing Tool**

On June 16, CDC added [COVIDTracer](#), a spreadsheet-based tool that allows state- and local-level public health officials and policy makers to compare between three different contact tracing/monitoring strategies, to its [contract tracing resources page](#). The tool is a spreadsheet-based tool that is interactive and allows the user to estimate the number of contact tracing professionals needed depending on different variables and strategies.

## **Challenges of False Negative Tests**

This NEJM [article](#) discusses the implications and challenges of false negative tests for SARS CoV-2. For a negative test, there are two key inputs: pretest probability—an estimate, before testing, of the person's chance of being infected—and test sensitivity. Many of the current tests are specific but not sensitive. The authors draw three general conclusions: 1) diagnostic testing will help in safely opening the country, but only if the tests are highly sensitive and validated under realistic conditions against a clinically meaningful reference standard; 2) the FDA should ensure that manufacturers provide details of tests' clinical sensitivity and specificity at the time of market authorization, as tests without such information will have less relevance to patient care; and 3) measuring test sensitivity in asymptomatic people is an urgent priority.

## **Reopening**

### **Hopkins Develops COVID-19 Planning Guide for IHEs**

This [guide and accompanying risk assessment](#), developed by Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, are designed to provide practical planning resources to help institutions gauge how effectively they are addressing a range of COVID19 scenarios. It is intended to accommodate a wide range of institutions: public, private, large, small, comprehensive, specialized, urban, and rural. Each institution will need to develop and implement its own tailored approach to reopening in-person instruction.

### **Future of Housing Work Group Considerations for Practice during COVID-19**

ACUHO-I assembled the Future of Housing (FOH) Work Group, which was tasked with exploring and making [recommendations](#) for how campuses may safely and most effectively proceed with providing campus housing for the next academic term, given the predicted next wave of the COVID-19 virus in late 2020.

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## Mental Health

### Preventing Mental Health Crisis in Clinicians

This Annals of Internal Medicine [article](#) shares a set of foundational principles to build support for providers during the pandemic in addition to the employee assistance programs, counseling, and debriefing groups. The principles are looking past the illness, fostering community, promoting vulnerability, and establishing boundaries and limitations.

## Prevention and Treatment

### FDA Ends EUA for HCQ

Citing the following, the FDA [withdrew the Emergency Use Authorization](#) for hydroxychloroquine.

- Hydroxychloroquine showed no benefit on mortality or in speeding recovery.
- The suggested dosing regimens for chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are unlikely to kill or inhibit the virus that causes COVID-19.
- The totality of scientific evidence currently available indicates a lack of benefit.

### Dexamethasone Appears to Improve Respiratory Function

This [article](#) describes a trial showing that a low dose regimen of the steroid dexamethasone cut the risk of death from 40% to 28% for patients on ventilators and from 25% to 20% for patients needing oxygen.

## Educational and Training Opportunities

### Save the Date: ACHA to Host Summit on COVID-19

ACHA is planning a virtual summit to help campuses address issues related to COVID-19 and resuming operations. The summit will take place July 28-29, 2020, from 12:30-4:30 ET each day. Please watch your inbox for more details.

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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