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ACHA COVID-19 Update: June 3, 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

Interactive Map of Change in New Cases

This [interactive map](#) from Axios uses data from the COVID-19 Tracking Project and represents the 7 day average of new cases between May 19-26. According to this, "New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts—all one-time hotspots—have reported fewer cases every week." Hover your mouse over a state to see the percent change.

MMWR on Origins of SARS-CoV-2 in U.S.

CDC's [review of public health surveillance data](#) shows COVID-19 first appeared in the U.S. in January on the west coast and introduced by travelers from China. Over a four-week period beginning January 21, CDC confirmed 14 COVID-19 cases all related to travel from China. Viral RNA analysis suggests a single lineage of virus from China began circulating sometime between January 18 and February 9 on the west coast.

The first non-travel related case in the U.S. was confirmed February 26, and a second occurred on February 28 in Washington. Meanwhile, in February, European travelers brought COVID-19 to the east coast of the U.S. Most of the virus spreading in the United States can be traced to the introductions from Europe: "...sustained, community transmission had begun before detection of the first two non-travel-related U.S. cases, likely resulting from the importation of a single lineage of virus from China in late January or early February, followed by several importations from Europe."

International COVID Case Tracking after School Reopening

This [article](#) from the Center for Global Development Site describes international school reopenings and COVID-19 cases. Thus far, no spikes occurred in case counts in the countries that reopened on an average 25 to 30 days after their peak case days. Of the 20 that reopened, only 3 (Madagascar, Czechia, and Vietnam) were on watch for upward trends. Parts of the UK and South Africa were slated to reopen schools on June 1, which was not 30 days past peak. Though multiple considerations muddy the water, at this point, there are no case spikes after reopening schools in the vast majority of countries that have already reopened.

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Testing and Tracking/Tracing

COVID-19 Testing: What We Know as of June 3, 2020

See [this brief](#) provided by ACHA's Task Force that provides clarification on testing, including testing priorities and capacity and issues to consider when considering a mass testing or screening program.

CIDRAP Resource on Testing

The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) created this resource "[Smart Testing for COVID-19 Virus and Antibodies](#)." If you don't have time to read the whole handbook at once, read at least the blue sidebars that highlight the pressing issues and recommendations.

National Association of City and County Health Officials Contact Tracing Position Statement

The National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) has provided this [contact tracing statement](#). Although dated April 16, it still has useful information on building contact tracing capacity. In the footnote on page 3, they state:

We estimate that in non-emergency situations, we need 15 professionals per 100,000 population, including epidemiologists, disease investigation specialists, public health nurses, community health workers, and others typically involved in contact tracing activities. Given the magnitude of COVID-19, the need to quickly complete contact tracing (within hours versus days for other communicable diseases), and the demand for these services across all areas of the country at once, we estimate that twice as many professionals will be needed.

Communications

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Q&A

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has posted on their site "[COVID-19: Simple Answers to Top Questions](#)." The document was developed with risk communication experts and a working group of state health officials using the science-based, risk communication message mapping development process.

Clinical Information and Treatment

First Human Trial for Antibody Drug

Drug company Eli Lilly is funding the work of Dr. Mark Mulligan, director of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Immunology and the Vaccine Center at New York University Langone Health, in the development and [trial of an antibody drug](#) against COVID-19. Initial testing involves 32 people receiving various doses of the antibody drug. The hope is to produce enough neutralizing antibodies in the patient to treat the virus or to even prevent infection and to use initially for seniors, nursing home residents, and people who know they have been exposed to the virus.

NEJM Article on Remdesivir 5 Day vs 10 Day Treatment

The *New England Journal of Medicine* recently published this randomized, multi-center [study](#) of 397 eligible patients hospitalized with COVID-19 who received intravenous remdesivir for either 5 or 10 days. The results showed no significant differences in efficacy between 5 and 10 days of treatment, leading the authors to suggest the 5-day course would stretch the supply of remdesivir farther. There was some suggestion that a 10-day course would be preferable in patients with more significant illness.

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Mental Health

AUCCCD Releases Guidelines on Safely Delivering Mental Health Services

The Association for University and College Counseling Directors (AUCCCD) released [these guidelines](#) that include sound, well-known public health practices such as reducing density, physical distancing, appropriate cleaning protocols, face covers, and remote working.

Updated SAMHSA Training and Technical Assistance

SAMHSA is committed to providing regular training and technical assistance (TTA) on matters related to the mental and substance use disorder field as they deal with COVID-19. These TA programs are delivering great resources during this time. View the updated available [TTA resources](#) to assist with the current situation.

Supporting Student Mental Health During Pandemic

Executive Director of the Jed Foundation John MacPhee discusses [how IHEs can deploy a comprehensive approach](#) to support student mental health, including supporting the development of life skills, promoting social connectedness, identifying students at risk, and increasing help-seeking behaviors.

Prevention

Reducing Transmission of SARS-CoV-2

In this [viewpoint article](#), the authors stress the importance of aerosol transmission in COVID-19 infection and the necessity of wearing a mask.

Wastewater Testing Gives Hope for Early Warning System

It's known that SARS CoV-2 is shed in stool and urine. Experts say [wastewater detection](#) of SARS-CoV-2 could act not only as a supplement to medical testing but as an early warning system. Wastewater analysis demonstrated genetic material of the virus prior to cases appearing in the hospitals. This gives scientists hope that wastewater-based monitoring could alert public health officials if and when the virus is circulating in a community again now that distancing measures are easing.

CDC Provides Brief Info for Sanitation and Wastewater Workers

CDC acknowledges the presence of COVID-19 in untreated wastewater but states to date there has been no transmission this way and no additional PPE or administrative controls beyond what workers currently use are necessary. See the brief [here](#).

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.

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Webinars

ACHA Q&A Sessions

Recordings of ACHA Q&A sessions are available at the ACHA [YouTube channel](#). See the most recent session on contract tracking.

Mental Health Services at HBCUs

Micah Griffin, chair of ACHA's HBCU Coalition and a member of the COVID-19 Task Force, moderated this [panel discussion](#) on mental health services and challenges from the perspective of several powerhouse HBCU leaders. Each of the panelists provided a brief statement on current services and activities on their campus and then answered questions from the attendees. All had developed online materials which included COVID-19 resources, psychoeducational workshops, and telemedicine and telehealth services. LGBTQIA students were noted to be particularly vulnerable as they leave a safer campus environment to homes that may not be as supportive or do not allow them to be their authentic selves.

Responding to COVID-19: A Science-Based Approach

Brought to you by the American Public Health Association and the National Academy of Medicine, this webinar series is exploring the state of the science surrounding the current outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States and globally, with a focus on the emerging evidence on how to best mitigate its impact. Hear from trusted experts in such fields as public health, infectious disease, risk communication, and crisis standards of care. View upcoming and recorded events [here](#).

JAMA Network COVID-19 Interviews

JAMA is providing free CME for these [video and audio interviews](#).

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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