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ACHA COVID-19 Update: March 24, 2021

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 Updates

New Survey Report: Lessons Learned from Fall 2020

The ACHA COVID-19 Task Force conducted its [fifth COVID-19 survey](#) between January 8 and January 20, 2021. The survey focused on qualitative data collection from campuses in response to COVID-19 during the fall semester/quarter 2020. The goal of the survey was to capture experiences from the respondents' point of view regarding key elements related to successes and lessons learned.

Last Chance to Register! Hot Topic: Commencement—Virtual, Hybrid, or In-Person? Public Health Considerations and Decision Making

Friday, March 26 at 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Come to our next free webinar and listen to senior administrators/health center directors from a large university, a medium-sized university, and a public historically black college as they discuss the decision-making process, planning, and public health considerations for holding commencement activities.

[Register here.](#)

Just Announced! CoVAC Initiative: Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Information and Q&A Session

Wednesday, April 7 at 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Join Patricia Novy, PhD, Senior Director of Medical Affairs at Moderna, for an introductory discussion on the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Novy will present the science behind mRNA vaccine development, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine's safety and efficacy profile, likely side effects with a focus on younger populations, vaccine distribution operations and logistics, and best practices in vaccine administration. There will be extensive time for Q&A.

[Register here.](#)

Just Announced! The Power of Partnerships: UC Davis

Friday, April 9 at 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Join us for this free webinar as health services and student affairs staff and a student from UC Davis discuss how they leveraged partnerships to develop innovative approaches to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus and in the surrounding community.

[Register here.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines for Faculty and Staff: What Higher Ed Employers Need to Know

Wednesday, April 7 at 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Anita Barkin, co-chair of the ACHA COVID-19 Task Force, is presenting in [this webinar from CUPA-HR](#). Mandating or strongly recommending COVID-19 vaccinations for faculty and staff raises a host of legal and practical considerations for higher ed employers. Presenters will review the key issues employers need to consider before adopting a vaccination policy and plan. This webinar is free, but attendees will need to create a free account on the CUPA-HR site to register.

CDC Updates

Updated Interim Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Testing and Screening at IHEs

CDC updated its [interim guidance for testing and screening at institutions of higher education](#) (IHEs):

- Updates were made to reflect changes to CDC's [Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#).
- Updates were made to recommend universal entry screening prior to the beginning of each term and serial screening testing when testing capacity is sufficient.
- Updates were made to reflect CDC revised quarantine guidelines and include considerations for a shortened quarantine period in consultation with local health departments.
- Updates were made to include considerations for COVID-19 surveillance, vaccination, and health equity.

In the section on [considerations for testing in different scenarios](#), CDC states that its "IHE testing recommendations are similar to testing guidelines set forth by the [American College Health Association](#), which state that all students and IHE faculty and staff be tested for SARS-CoV-2 at least twice a week, with results available within 48 hours."

Updated Guidance on Testing for Current Infection

CDC updated its [testing guidance](#) to align it with latest recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals.

Who should get tested:

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19
- Most people who have had close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19
- People who have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 such as travel, attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded indoor settings or other activities that don't allow proper physical distancing

Those who don't need testing following an exposure to someone with COVID-19:

- Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-19 symptoms
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered AND have not developed new symptoms

Prevention and Treatment

COVID-19 Communications: Promoting Prevention Measures and Vaccine Confidence

NFID has provided this summary report of research, insights, and best practices for effective communications about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of following evidence-based public health

prevention measures. ACHA's new [Higher Education COVID-19 Community of Practice](#) (HECCOP) is included on page 15 as an example.

IDSA Guidelines on the Treatment and Management of Patients with COVID-19

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) updated its [treatment guidelines](#) on March 5th and again on March 18. The March 5th revision contains a new recommendation on the use of bamlanivimab with etesevimab in ambulatory patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who have underlying medical conditions placing them at higher risk of severe disease. The March 18 revision was a minor one including more studies of ivermectin and continuing to recommend against ivermectin use except in a clinical trial.

COVID-19's Big Public Health Lesson: Ask People to Be Careful, Not Perfect

This Vox [article](#) discusses harm reduction, an approach that encourages people to minimize risk rather than eliminate it entirely. Over the course of the pandemic, the binary language of "safe" and "unsafe" has given way to risk categories of low, moderate, high, and highest and how risk can be minimized within those categories. The authors extend the discussion to vaccination messaging and the restrictions despite getting vaccinated.

Testing and Tracking/Tracing

FDA Grants EUA to COVID-19 Screening Device for Asymptomatic People

This Medscape [article](#) covers the Tiger Tech COVID Plus Monitor, a rapid non-invasive, prescreening tool that uses an armband with embedded light sensors to acquire biometric signals over a 3-5 minute period. It is approved for use in those age 5 and older. A study showed the device achieved "98.6% positive percent agreement (proportion of COVID-19 positive individuals correctly identified to have certain biomarkers) and 94.5% negative percent agreement (proportion of COVID-19 negative individuals correctly identified not to have the biomarkers)."

Webinar: COVID-19 Testing in a Post-Vaccine World

On Wednesday, March 24 at 12:30 pm–1:00 pm ET, Axios is hosting [this event](#) on COVID-19 testing and its role in the response to the coronavirus pandemic. Speakers include Michael J. Mina, MD, PhD; Jennifer Nuzzo, DrPH, SM, and Michael T. Osterholm, PhD, MPH.

Vaccines

Vaccine Storage and Handling

As campuses begin receiving and administering vaccines, these [CDC materials](#) on vaccine storage and handling may be useful.

Americans Getting Vaccinated and Reemerging

This recent [Axios/Ipsos poll](#) focused on vaccination, activities, and precautions. As more people are getting vaccinated, more people are returning to activities—though "in some cases it is people who have not received the vaccine that are driving this behavior."

- 45% said they'd gone out to eat in the past week, up 12 percentage points from a month ago and the highest share in a year.
- 48% said they visited friends or relatives outside the home, up nine points from a month ago and the highest share since October. Note that 53% of unvaccinated people reported visiting outside the home in the past week, compared with just 41% of those who'd been vaccinated.

- 67% said they're staying home and avoiding others as much as possible, down seven points from a month ago and the lowest share since the initial survey question 11 months ago.
- 17% said their emotional well-being has improved over the past week, the highest share in a year.
- The most commonly accepted myth is that Johnson and Johnson vaccine contains aborted fetal cells.

A Three-Tiered Approach to Address Barriers to Vaccine Delivery in the Black Community

In this [paper](#) in The Lancet, researchers looked at Loma Linda University's mass vaccination clinic and strategy to reach its surrounding underrepresented Black community. Barriers to vaccination included mistrust, limited access to the internet/a computer and transportation which made the online scheduling and travel difficult for many. The three-tiered approach included:

- Engagement of Black faith leaders
- Promotion of vaccine education by Black health care professionals
- Increasing accessibility of vaccination clinics by holding them in Black communities so that online registration and scheduling are avoided

College Campuses

Can Colleges and Universities Require Student Covid-19 Vaccination?

With vaccination being a critical part of the safe reopening of campuses, whether or not a campus can mandate COVID-19 vaccine for students is a growing topic of discussion. This Harvard Business Review Blog [post](#) discusses whether universities can legally require vaccination as a condition of attendance and with what accommodations.

College and University Presidents Respond to COVID-19: 2021 Spring Term Survey

In this ACE/TIAA Institute [pulse survey](#) of 348 IHE presidents conducted between February 1 and February 12, respondents identified their most pressing issues due to COVID-19. The top five: mental health of students (72%), mental health of faculty/staff (58%), long-term financial viability (41%), enrollment numbers for spring (38%), and racial equity issues (37%). The sixth highest concern listed was the loss of revenue and viability of auxiliary services (35%). Another set of survey results was related to the level of changes needed to adapt and innovate student services to meet student needs. Presidents identified making many changes or adaptations to dining services (69%), residence life (63%), student activities (61%), and health services (61%).

Pandemic-Fueled Confidence for College Presidents

This Inside Higher Ed [article](#) covers the results of its 2021 Survey of College and University Presidents, which included 433 presidents from public, private nonprofit and for-profit institutions. Confidence and optimism are up. Like in the recently released ACE survey of presidents, the Inside Higher Ed survey shows that students' mental health topped presidents' list of concerns, followed by impact on students from disadvantaged backgrounds and employees' mental health.

COVID-Era College: Are Students Satisfied?

Inside Higher Ed and College Pulse conducted this [Student Voice survey](#) in early March, showing that "Students as a group are deeply ambivalent about their college experiences."

- 43% of those back to campus in some capacity are at least somewhat satisfied with the extent to which they can see friends and meet peers; 38% are at least somewhat dissatisfied. Satisfaction is greater at private nonprofit colleges (50%) than at public institutions (39%).

- 40% of students back on campus are at least somewhat satisfied about their ability to connect with faculty and staff; 34% feel dissatisfied. Older students are more likely to report extreme satisfaction (43% percent of those aged 24 and up, compared to 12% of all students).
- 35% of those now on campus are somewhat or extremely satisfied with how accessible in-person student services are, while 29% are dissatisfied. Responses from public and private institutions are about even.

The top three aspects of campus life students missed most: friends and social life, in-person lectures, and participating in clubs/sports. Eighty percent of respondents noted lack of motivation to complete coursework and 71% cited lack of connection with others (peers and faculty) as their primary online learning challenges during the pandemic.

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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