



AMERICAN
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ASSOCIATION

ACHA COVID-19 Update: March 31, 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

ACHA Awarded \$450K from CDC to Use Behavior Change to Reduce SARS-CoV-2 on College Campuses

ACHA is bringing together a community of diverse disciplines within higher education to collaborate on reducing SARS-CoV-2 transmission on college campuses and in their surrounding communities. This project, the **Higher Education COVID-19 Community of Practice (HECCOP)**, is funded by a cooperative agreement award from CDC.

HECCOP focuses on the topic of COVID-19 behavioral mitigation efforts, such as masking, handwashing, physical distancing, and testing, and will provide several channels and strategies to facilitate collaboration and increase knowledge sharing. [Learn more about HECCOP here](#).

ACHA is providing an online discussion forum open to anyone interested in being part of HECCOP. ACHA members will be automatically subscribed to the discussion forum, hosted in [ACHA Connect](#). Non-members can [fill out this form](#) to join the forum.

ACHA HECCOP and CoVAC Webinar Series

Register for these free live events happening soon! Recordings of past events can be viewed [here](#).

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Q&A Session

April 7 at 12:00 PM ET

Part of the ACHA CoVAC webinar series. 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](#).

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

April 7 at 1:00 PM ET

In [this webinar](#) from CUPA-HR and ACHA, presenters Anita Barkin, DrPH, MSN, NP-C, FACHA, co-Chair of the ACHA COVID-19 Task Force, and Monica Cruz, JD, Director of Human Resources at St. Thomas University, will discuss how 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.

The Power of Partnerships: UC Davis

April 9 at 3:00 PM ET

In this HECCOP webinar, 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.](#)

SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance Testing: What Colleges and Universities Need to Know from Dr. Michael Mina and Dr. Michael Deichen

April 23 at 3:00 PM ET

Join us for this HECCOP webinar where we'll hear from two nationally recognized experts on surveillance testing. Dr. Michael Mina will address rapid testing along with other types of surveillance testing currently available and Dr. Michael Deichen will share how the University of Central Florida has used rapid testing among other mitigation strategies. [Register here.](#)

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine: Information for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine

Every business day through April 30th (times vary).

Part of the ACHA CoVAC webinar series. [Register here.](#)

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Q&A Session

Wednesday, April 14 at 12:00-1:00 pm ET

Part of the ACHA CoVAC webinar series. [Register here](#) to receive an invitation from Pfizer.

CDC Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series

CDC is offering a series of brief 15-20 minute [webinars](#) addressing COVID-19 vaccination topics. CE is available and is aimed at all those authorized to prepare and administer COVID-19 vaccine.

Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

COVID-19 Community Profile Report and State Profile Reports

The [Community Profile Report](#) (CPR) is generated by the Data Strategy and Execution Workgroup in the Joint Coordination Cell, under the White House COVID-19 Team. The CPR provides easily interpretable information on key indicators for all regions, states, core-based statistical areas (CBSAs), and counties across the United States. It is a snapshot in time that:

- Focuses on recent COVID-19 outcomes in the last seven days and changes relative to the week prior
- Provides additional contextual information at the county, CBSA, state and regional levels
- Supports rapid visual interpretation of results with color thresholds*

The [State Profile Reports](#) (SPR) provide easily interpretable information on key indicators for each state, down to the county level.

Testing and Tracking/Tracing

The Case for Altruism in Institutional Diagnostic Testing

In this medRxiv [preprint study](#), researchers applied an epidemiological model to simulate how a virus might spread through a mid-sized university (population 10,000). Using real data from Colorado Mesa University (CMU), they created a baseline scenario of 1% of the campus community and 6% of the surrounding community being infected with SARS-CoV-2, with the university testing 12% of the campus daily. Using all its tests on the campus community only, the campus would have 200 COVID-19 cases after 40 days. If the campus used some of those tests on community members identified as close contacts of students and staff (peripheral testing), the number of cases dropped by 25%. The optimal proportion of peripheral testing was 45% under baseline parameters. The study makes a case for institutions to test altruistically, i.e., "designate a substantial portion of their testing capacity outside the institutions--it would not only be good for their communities, but also for them." UC Davis is implementing this strategy and will be featured in an [upcoming ACHA webinar](#).

Vaccines

Vaccine Equity Toolkit to Address Equitable Access

Developed by Kaiser Permanente to offer a healthcare system framework for the equitable administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, this [toolkit](#) is meant to be adaptable to the unique needs, capacity and context of communities and organizations. It offers a framework for measuring vaccine equity along with metrics and indices to assess impact. The core of the toolkit offers a suite of equity-enabling opportunities that can be activated to enhance current vaccine administration approaches. The section on leading practices and resources provides case studies and links to prepared resources institutions and organizations have used.

A Study of SARS CoV-2 Infection and Potential Transmission in University Students Immunized with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

The COVID-19 Prevention Network of the NIH trial is conducting a [study](#) to evaluate the efficacy of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 infection, as well as its effect on peak nasal viral load as a measure of infection and a proxy of infectiousness, in university students aged 18-26. The study will monitor about 12,000 college students across 20 universities. A detailed description of the study is available [here](#).

A User's Guide: How to Talk to Those Hesitant About the COVID-19 Vaccine

This STAT [article](#) provides some timely tips on tackling vaccine hesitancy. We know that the best way to approach the conversation with those who are vaccine hesitant is to have that initial conversation with trusted advisors. Additional suggestions from frontline experts, including those who are multilingual and serving underrepresented and vulnerable populations, are listed.

Speed of Impact of Vaccination Campaign Within Geisinger's Workforce

This NEJM Catalyst [article](#) covers one organization's experience with vaccinating its workforce. Geisinger, a health organization that includes nine hospital campuses, a health plan with 500,000+ members, two research centers, and the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, initially offered the vaccine to their most at-risk frontline health care workers in December 2020 and to all employees by late January 2021. More than 60% of the workforce was fully vaccinated within two months. However, "vaccination has slowed among Geisinger employees despite continued effort to encourage vaccination," suggesting their educational campaign "in preparation for vaccine availability was only partially effective in encouraging all segments of its workforce to be vaccinated." These results could inform the higher education and college health fields' vaccination education efforts.

What Can You Do Once You're Vaccinated?

This New York Times [interactive questionnaire](#) lets individuals perform their own risk assessment of activities once they are fully vaccinated. This simple tool could be especially useful for people who find CDC information too complicated.

College Campuses

Rutgers University to Require COVID-19 Vaccine for Students

Rutgers University recently [announced](#) that it is mandating COVID-19 vaccination for students before they arrive on campus for the fall 2021 semester. Students may request exemption for medical or religious reasons, and students who are fully remote and those participating in online CE programs are exempt from vaccination. Faculty and staff are not required but strongly urged to get vaccinated.

Colleges Weigh Whether to Require COVID-19 Vaccines or Just Urge them

This Chronicle of Higher Ed [article](#) covers the hot topic of mandating COVID-19 vaccinations, highlighting the legal and logistical questions that campuses are grappling with.

Should College Students be Prioritized for COVID-19 Vaccines Now?

In another Chronicle of Higher Ed [article](#), the pro and con opinions for prioritizing college students for vaccination are provided, with "experts...generally support[ing] the idea of getting shots in college students' arms before they travel for the summer."

Graduation in a Baseball Stadium? College Commencements Pair Pomp with Prevention

This Chronicle of Higher Ed [article](#) covers the varying commencement plans being developed. Plans include events in stadiums, drive-through ceremonies, virtual graduations, outdoor venues, limited guests, distancing, etc. The author writes, "Overall, though, the planning for graduation has been one more in a series of tradeoffs that university officials have made between health and safety and the students' desires for normalcy."

Mental Health

College Wellness in a Traumatic Year

This Chronicle of Higher Ed [publication](#) is a compendium of how colleges have responded to the pandemic's deepening mental health crisis and how they're helping campus communities cope through more accessible resources, bolstering faculty support, providing opportunities for remote and outdoor therapy, and focusing on students of color.

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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