



AMERICAN
COLLEGE
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

ACHA COVID-19 Update: October 7, 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 “Ask the Expert” Webinar Series

Recording Available: Wastewater Surveillance Webinar

A recording is available from our Q&A last week with CDC and academic researchers about the potential role of wastewater surveillance to detect COVID-19 on college and university campuses. Wastewater surveillance is a promising strategy to understand changes in COVID-19 infections in communities, but there remain key questions about building-level sampling and testing, data processing and analysis, and interpretation of findings. The recorded webinar available on [ACHA's YouTube channel](#).

Registration Now Open: SARS-CoV-2 Testing Webinar

Friday, October 9, 2020, at 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Please join us as we hear from experts about the various testing options available to student health centers. Many campuses have changed their testing strategies one or more times as they try to adapt to the changing landscape of the pandemic. Hear about the pros and cons of each testing type and see what's working for other campuses as you begin to plan for a second semester. The webinar will include a 30-minute presentation and a 30-minute Q&A session. This webinar will be recorded and made publicly available on ACHA's YouTube channel.

[Register here.](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine—Systems for Small, Medium and Large Sized Colleges and Universities

Friday, October 23, 2020, at 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Please join us as we hear from small, medium, and large colleges and universities about their experiences managing contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine during the fall term. Hear what's working, what's not, and how they adapted in real time to meet the need. The webinar will include a 30-minute presentation and a 30-minute Q&A session. Registration will open soon.

Creating Support Systems for Students in Isolation and Quarantine

Friday, November 6, 2020, at 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Please join us as our experts discuss the significant mental health needs of students in isolation and quarantine and how to put systems in place to best support these students. The webinar will include a 20-minute presentation and a 40-minute Q&A session. Registration will open soon.

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CDC Updates

CDC Updates Information on How COVID-19 Spreads

CDC once again released its transmission document, which acknowledges the possibility of [airborne transmission](#) in individuals who are further than 6 feet away under certain conditions. "These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation. Sometimes the infected person was breathing heavily, for example while singing or exercising." Infection from close contact and respiratory droplets remains the most common scenario with contact from contaminated surfaces less common.

Updated Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education

CDC updated its [Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education](#), including information on information on:

- [Testing, Screening, and Outbreak Response for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#)

Other updates include:

- CDC updated [guidance on reopening buildings](#) after prolonged shutdown or reduced operation to ensure the safety of occupants and the buildings water system and devices.
- The CDC provided new guidance for [how to safely enjoy](#) the upcoming autumn holidays of Halloween, Dia de los Muertos, and Thanksgiving.
- CDC updated [general FAQs on COVID-19](#).
- CDC updated the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) that includes maps, charts, and data on COVID-19 laboratory testing across the U.S.

Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

How Long Might Immunity Last?

[NIH Director Francis Collins' new blog](#) looks at data on how long people infected with OTHER less life-threatening coronaviruses stay immune after they recover. A new [study](#) in Nature Medicine indicates that "immunity to other coronaviruses tends to be short-lived, with reinfections happening quite often about 12 months later and, in some cases, even sooner." Dr. Collins notes some caveats to interpreting this study or directly extrapolating but ultimately concludes that "the evidence suggests it will be prudent to proceed carefully and with caution when it comes to long-term immunity, whether achieved through naturally acquired infections or vaccination."

Adolescent with COVID-19 as the Source of an Outbreak at a 3-Week Family Gathering

This [CDC MMWR](#) describes an outbreak that occurred during a three-week family gathering of five different households from four states, with family members ranging in age from 9- to 72-years-old. A 13-year-old was identified as the presumed index case. She and 13 of her relatives stayed together in a five bedroom, two bath house, with no mask-wearing and no physical distancing. Six more relatives visited but stayed outdoors and maintained physical distance but did not wear masks. Twelve of the fourteen who stayed in the house developed COVID-19. None of the six relatives who stayed outside and maintained physical distance became infected. This case shows that:

- Children and adolescents can transmit infection to families even when symptoms are mild. Better understanding of transmission by children and adolescents in different settings is needed to refine public health guidance.

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- Physical distancing is an important mitigation strategy to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
- Rapid antigen tests generally have lower sensitivity (84.0%–97.6%) compared with RT-PCR testing; negative results should be confirmed with RT-PCR if used for persons with high pretest probability of infection, such as those with a known exposure.
- Regardless of negative test results, self-quarantine for 14 days after a known exposure or after travel when mandated by state, territorial, tribal, or local authorities
- SARS-CoV-2 can spread efficiently during gatherings, especially with prolonged, close contact. Physical distancing, face mask use, and hand hygiene reduce transmission; gatherings should be avoided when physical distancing and face mask use are not possible.

Case Series of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adults (MIS-A) Associated with SARS-CoV-2 Infection UK and US. Mar-Aug 2020

This early release [CDC MMWR](#) looked at 27 patients with cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, dermatologic, and neurologic symptoms without severe respiratory illness with either PCR for SARS-CoV-2 or antibody assays indicating recent infection. Of the 27 patients, 9 were reported to CDC, 7 were from published case reports, and 11 were summarized in three case series in peer-reviewed journals. These patients experienced similar symptoms to the syndrome known as MIS-C (multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children). Presenting symptoms included fever, chest pain, palpitations, GI symptoms, mucositis. Despite minimal respiratory symptoms, 10 patients had pulmonary ground glass opacities, and six had pleural effusions identified on chest imaging. Antibody testing was required to identify SARS-CoV-2 infection in approximately one third of patients. Clinicians and health departments should consider MIS-A in adults with signs and symptoms compatible with the current working MIS-A case definition. Antibody testing for SARS-CoV-2 might be needed to confirm previous COVID-19 infection in patients who do not have positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR or antigen test results.

Prevention and Treatment

Flu Vaccine 2020-2021 Recommendations

This collaborative effort between CDC and Medscape is a good [summary of this year's flu recommendations](#):

Who: everyone 6 months of age or older without contraindications.

When: By the end of October, with the caveat that children 6 months to age 8 who need two doses for the season should receive their first dose as soon as possible and wait at least 4 weeks to get a second dose by end of October.

What's new: Two new vaccines for those 65 or older: quadrivalent high dose flu vaccine (Fluzone) and quadrivalent adjuvanted high dose (Fluad quadrivalent).

What if your patient has concomitant COVID-19? Wait until the patient is no longer acutely ill.

Vaccines

IAC “Mass Vaccination Clinics: Challenges and Best Practices” Webinar

Attend IAC’s informative webinar, “Mass Vaccination Clinics: Challenges and Best Practices” on October 15, 2020, at 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET. Experienced providers will discuss successes and challenges in conducting mass-vaccination clinics and they will highlight best practices and offer practical information for ensuring a successful clinic. [Register now](#) to attend this free webinar.

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CDC Mass Vaccination Guidance

- [Checklist of Best Practices for Vaccination Clinics Held at Off-site Locations](#)
- [Guidance for Planning Vaccination Clinics Held at Off-site Locations](#)
- [Vaccination Guidance During a Pandemic](#)

Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine

The National Academies Press released its [Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine](#). Slides from NAM's recent webinar can be [downloaded here](#); the slides are shorter and more easily digestible than the full framework. It's an important, thoughtful, and timely report with recommendations addressing the institutional and administrative commitments needed to address equitable vaccine allocation. If you have time for nothing else, read the opening preface and the summary.

The preface reads:

In embarking on our task, the committee started with equity. Inequity has been a hallmark of this pandemic, both locally and globally. Inequities in health have always existed, but at this moment there is an awakening to the power of racism, poverty, and bias in amplifying the health and economic pain and hardship imposed by this pandemic. Thus, we saw our work as one way to address these wrongs and do our part to work toward a new commitment to promoting health equity that is informed by but lives beyond this moment. The committee then approached what the science reveals about transmission, susceptibility, and risks of severe disease or death. The committee decided that a single objective, even one as important as mortality, obscures the impact of this virus on the triad of suffering, death and societal dysfunction. Therefore, a target of reducing all three seemed appropriate.

New York Times Vaccine Tracker

The New York Times continues to track vaccine development phases in this [interactive coronavirus vaccine tracker](#).

Testing and Tracking/Tracing

From Diagnostics to Screening: U.S. Testing Calculator, Rapid Antigen Tests

Brown University School of Public Health and Harvard Global Health Initiative teamed up to [update state testing targets and evaluate new screening approaches](#) to test more asymptomatic people. The testing calculator to illustrate a more granular picture of allocating/prioritizing tests. There are also updated recommendations for basic scenarios up to the ideal of testing all priority groups.

The NPR article linked within interviews Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean of the Brown school of Public Health on the next generation of rapid, inexpensive antigen tests beginning to hit the market. It is a paradigm shift," Jha says. "What I think new testing capacity allows us to do is actually play offense—go and hunt for the disease before it spreads to identify asymptomatic people before they spread it to others. It really becomes about preventing outbreaks—not just capturing them after they've occurred."

College Campuses

- [Tracking Coronavirus Cases at U.S. Colleges and Universities](#) (New York Times)
- [Monitoring the Coronavirus Outbreak in Metro Areas Across the U.S.](#) (New York Times)
- Campus Reopening Plans: [List of Colleges' Reopening Models](#) (The Chronicle of Higher Education) and [College Crisis Initiative \(C2i\)](#) (Davidson College)

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Campus Guidebook—Slowing the Spread at U.S. Colleges and Universities

This CDC partner call is scheduled for October 19 at 3:00 PM ET.

Dr. Cliff McDonald, Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Greta Massetti, Lead, JCC Mitigations and Risk Working Group and Lead, CDC Community Interventions and Critical Populations Task Force, and Dr. Lisa C. Barrios, Lead, School Fieldwork Unit, State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support Task Force will present. LCDR Samantha Morgan, Deputy, Policy Unit Partnerships & Risk Management Team will moderate. Dr. McDonald will share updates on CDC's COVID-19 response, including the latest scientific information and what everyone should know about protecting themselves and others. In addition, Dr. Massetti and Dr. Barrios will review CDC COVID-19 guidance for Institutions of Higher Education in the presentation Campus Guidebook —Slowing the Spread at US Colleges and Universities.

Please submit your questions by 10/14 so that organizers can group similar questions and answer as many as possible. Please email eocevent337@cdc.gov with "Partner Call 10/19" in the subject line.

[Register here.](#)

Most Colleges Don't Have Widespread Testing

This [NPR piece](#) investigates the reasons why only about 25% of colleges enrolling more than 5,000 students have surveillance testing programs in place. In the article, Terry Hartle, president of the American Council on Education, states, "The amount of money colleges and universities will spend on testing is likely to dwarf every projection we would have made a few months ago. Schools are just spending substantially more money on testing than they anticipated." For example, officials at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign estimate that due to the frequency of testing, they're spending about \$1 million a week, despite individual tests costing only \$10. Last month, ACE [sent a letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy requesting \$120 billion to support higher education's increased costs related to testing, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine, and learning technology.

The Risk Universities Can't Not Take

This Atlantic article looks at [University of Arizona's \\$8 million, 117-day efforts and preparation to reopen for fall](#). The article discusses how the school utilized wastewater surveillance and is a great study on communicating with stakeholders. Four weeks in, President Robbins called for a shelter in place for two weeks to stop the surge in cases, which seems to have worked. Their goal now is to get to Thanksgiving, which marks the end of in-person classes for fall. The entire in-person class days for fall is 93 days, compared with the 117-day sprint from the April 30 announcement to the start of classes on August 24. It may cost \$20 million through the end of the academic year.

Six Steps for a Safe Fall Commencement

This [University Business article](#) highlights the September 19-20 University of North Georgia (UNG) commencement ceremony celebrating its spring and summer 2020 graduates.

Mental Health

Extending the Reach of Mental Health Therapy

This [Inside Higher Ed article](#) describes various platforms and web applications aimed at college counseling centers to help address demand for services which continue to outstrip supply, particularly during the pandemic. The ensuing economic downturn has limited campus' abilities to hire more staff to meet this demand.

Health Disparities/Health Equity

A new [report](#) from U.S. News & World Report and Aetna Foundation shows how COVID-19 disproportionately impacts already “unhealthy” communities.

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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