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## ACHA COVID-19 Update: September 2, 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.*

### Call for Proposals for ACHA COVID-19 Virtual Summit 2: 344 Days and Counting

As the nation continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, ACHA is committed to bringing college health and wellness professionals up-to-date information and resources for how to best manage the disease on campus. This summit is designed to provide institutions with best practices and strategies for how to respond to COVID-19 challenges and explore strategies for mass vaccinations. We're specifically looking for submissions that address the following:

- Campus response to COVID-19
- Updates to vaccine policies
- Planning and conducting mass vaccination programs
- Mitigating the possibility for an outbreak on campus
- Responding to an outbreak on campus

This summit was previously titled Strategies to Prevent and Respond to College-based Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks and was scheduled for October. The summit will now take place December 8-9, and the Call for Programs deadline has been extended to September 14, 2020. Submit a proposal [here](#).

### Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

#### Duration of SARS-CoV-2 Infectivity: When Is it Safe to Discontinue Isolation?

This article from Clinical Infectious Diseases summarizes the [evidence of the duration of SARS-CoV-2 infectivity](#) with the longest interval of replication established at 20 days. The article states, "Infectivity decreases to essentially zero after about 10 days from symptom onset in mild-moderately ill patients and after about 15 days in critically ill and immunocompromised patients with a maximum reported interval thus far of 20 days."

#### Bradykinin Hypothesis and COVID-19

This [Elemental article](#) describes how the second fastest supercomputer in the world (named Summit) at Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee still took a week to crunch data from 40,000 genes from 17,000 genetic samples, or 2.5 billion genetic combinations in an effort to better understand COVID-19. According to the article, "the computer had revealed a new theory about how COVID-19 impacts the body: [the bradykinin hypothesis](#). The hypothesis provides a model that explains many aspects of COVID-19, including some of its most [bizarre symptoms](#). It also suggests 10-plus potential treatments, many of which are already FDA approved."

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## Humoral Immune Response to SARS-CoV-2 in Iceland

This [NEJM study of PCR and antibody testing](#) performed on over 30,500 Icelanders for over four months estimated seroprevalence and infection fatality risk. Samples were collected from hospitalized, quarantined, and random individuals. Antibodies remained stable over the four months after diagnosis. The risk of death from infection was 0.3% and 44% of persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Iceland were not diagnosed by qPCR but rather by antibody testing. Antibody levels were higher in older and hospitalized people and lower in women and smokers. About 30% of positive cases were asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic. There are many more findings in this article. The authors ended the article by saying Icelanders would be susceptible to a second wave of infection due to the low SARS-CoV-2 antibody seroprevalence in the country.

## Modeling the Onset of Symptoms of COVID-19

According to the authors of [this study](#), the most likely order of symptoms is fever, cough, and myalgias, followed by nausea/vomiting and finally diarrhea. The study supports the practice of temperature screening prior to coming to campus or entering buildings.

## The Path Out of the Pandemic

This [National Geographic article](#) voices the opinions of renowned scientists, physicians, epidemiologists, policy makers, and public health experts on how we can find our way out of this pandemic.

## Prevention and Treatment

### Prevent Epidemics' Mask Guidance Playbook

Prevent Epidemics released the "[Promoting mask-wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic: a policymaker's guide](#)," which "synthesizes global evidence on how masks prevent virus transmission and slow community spread, and identifies best practices for mask design and use. The playbook also provides tools for public health officials and leaders to take a data- and research-driven approach to promoting mask-wearing, including conducting formative research, considering masking mandates, running focused media campaigns, and engaging with communities."

### CDC Updates Mask Guidance

CDC updated its [mask guidance](#), which includes graphics demonstrating "do's and don'ts" and how not to wear a mask.

### Is the Six Foot Rule Outdated?

This British Medical Journal article by researchers at MIT and Oxford [dismantle the 80 year old dogma of 6 feet](#), calling the distancing rules an "oversimplification based on outdated science." The article describes the origin of the 6 ft rule and the flaws. Instead, they propose a more nuanced model with graded levels of risk (green, yellow, and red) based on setting, occupancy level, contact time, and whether face coverings are worn.

### FDA Cautions Health Care Providers on Protective Barrier Enclosures

This [FDA letter](#) warns health care providers that enclosure barriers without the use of negative pressure may actually increase the risk of exposure to airborne particles. Thus, the FDA has revoked the umbrella EUA for passive protective barrier enclosures and recommending the use of negative pressure if using these enclosure barriers and always using PPE regardless.

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## **Wastewater Surveillance Worked**

University of Arizona's [wastewater surveillance program](#) involves regular screening of the sewage coming from the residence halls. A wastewater sample from one residence hall was positive, resulting in 311 residents receiving testing, which detected two positive asymptomatic students who were quickly quarantined.

## **Vaccines**

### **Preliminary Framework for Equitable Allocation of Vaccine**

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) released a [draft framework](#) that is free to download and open to public comment until September 4 at 11:59 am ET. The 115-page document prioritized populations in a four-phased approach to receive COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. The phases are summarized on page 57. College students are discussed on page 73 and placed in priority phase 3 of vaccine allocation.

### **FDA Commissioner Willing to Fast Track Vaccine**

Denying political pressure, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn [told the Financial Times](#) that he would be willing to provide FDA EUA to a COVID-19 vaccine before completing Phase 3 trials "as long as the benefits outweigh the risks."

### **Vaccine Allocation**

This Medscape article reports on CDC ACIP's third [vaccine allocation discussion](#). Two possible models for allocating initial vaccine supplies were presented. One considered risk status on the basis of underlying health conditions and occupational group, with priority given to health care personnel and essential workers. The second focused on vaccination of nursing home health care personnel and residents. In settings such as long-term care facilities and correction facilities, where people gather in groups, cases increase first among staff. The vaccine working group suggests that vaccinating staff may also benefit individuals living in those facilities. Another concern was the cold temperatures needed to store the vaccine may prove problematic in shipping to rural areas.

### **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**

### **CDC Director Redfield Clarifies Controversial Testing Guidelines**

This [STAT article](#) describes Director Redfield's clarification of the latest testing guidelines, which he states are "intended to place an emphasis on testing people with symptoms and vulnerable populations" and further clarified testing "may be considered" for asymptomatic people who are contacts of positive cases. However, there are no new wording changes to the testing guidelines.

### **CDC Updates Contact Tracing Plan**

CDC released [updated contact tracing instructions](#) to align with the testing guidance that was updated last week.

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## **Thermo Fisher Scientific Donates Diagnostic Equipment to HBCUs**

Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. has [gifted \\$15 million in diagnostic lab equipment](#) to five HBCUs to expand or establish labs on campus for SARS-CoV-2 testing. Howard (Washington, DC), the Morehouse School of Medicine (Georgia), Meharry Medical College (Tennessee), Xavier University of Louisiana (New Orleans), and Hampton University (Virginia) were included in the pool. The company plans to open the program to all HBCUs and set up centers where tests can be processed.

## **College Campuses**

### **Tracking Coronavirus Cases at U.S. Colleges and Universities**

This New York Times tracker includes [probable and confirmed cases reported from IHEs](#). The authors advise to exercise caution when comparing institutions. Colleges and government agencies report this data differently, and some declined to provide data or did not respond to inquiries. At some institutions, cases may be spread across multiple campuses.

### **College Communities Emerge as Hotspots**

The New York Times updated its list of [metro areas with the fastest rising cases](#) of COVID-19. The top 10 are all homes of college campuses.

### **List of College Reopening Plans**

The Chronicle continues to [track individual colleges' reopening plans](#) and has partnered with Davidson College's [College Crisis Initiative \(C2i\)](#). The fall 2020 data includes opening plans of almost 3,000 IHEs and can be filtered by institution type, infrastructure, enrollment, endowment size, and several variables pertaining to athletics.

## **Mental Health**

### **Taking the Measure of Mental Health in a Pandemic**

The Bloomberg School of Public Health published this summary of the [mental health impact of the pandemic](#). According to the summary, "People with no prior mental health condition may not be well equipped to handle the onset of mental health symptoms, especially during a pandemic when traditional coping strategies aren't available in the usual ways," says Calliope Holingue, PhD, MPH, postdoctoral fellow in Mental Health at the Bloomberg School and in Neuropsychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. "Furthermore, people with no prior experience of seeking mental health treatment may not know how to navigate the mental health service system."

## **Health Disparities**

### **Last Chance to Submit Comments on New Guidelines Available: Supporting Vulnerable Campus Populations During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

A new set of guidelines from the ACHA COVID-19 Task Force are now available: [Supporting Vulnerable Campus Populations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). These guidelines have been approved by the ACHA Board of Directors, but we are accepting comments from members which will be considered for upcoming revisions to the document. Please [submit any comments](#) by Friday, September 4.

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## **Advancing the Response to COVID-19: Sharing Promising Programs and Practices for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities**

The HHS Office of Minority Health is [hosting a virtual symposium](#) on Thursday, September 17, 2020, to highlight state, tribal, territorial and community-based efforts to address COVID-19 among racial and ethnic minority and American Indian and Alaska Native populations. The virtual symposium will feature national, state, tribal and local experts leading these efforts and is developed for public health leaders at all levels and community organizations confronting the pandemic.

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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