



AMERICAN
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ASSOCIATION

ACHA COVID-19 Update: September 23, 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

ACHA COVID-19 Task Force “Ask the Expert”: Wastewater Surveillance

Please join us as we hear from 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 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.

Date and Time: Friday, September 25, 2020 1:30-2:30 PM ET

Cost: Free

[Register here.](#)

ACHF and Hologic Webinar

(Re)Introducing Best Practices in Sexual Health Promotion and Clinical Care in the COVID-19 Era

Join members of the ACHA Sexual Health Promotion and Clinical Care Coalition's leadership team as they review the ACHA Guidelines: [Best Practices in Sexual Health Promotion and Clinical Care](#), provide suggestions for how to adapt in the COVID-19 era, answer participant questions, and preview a new toolkit designed to assist with organizational development and implementation. This webinar will be archived.

This free webinar is sponsored by the American College Health Foundation with support from Hologic.

Date and Time: Friday, September 25, 2020, at 3:00 PM ET

[Register here.](#)

Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on SARS-CoV-2 Deaths in Those <21

From February 12–July 31, 391,814 cases of COVID-19 and MIS-C and 121 deaths were identified among persons aged <21 years in the U.S. This [MMWR described four important findings](#):

- Racial and ethnic minority groups are overrepresented. Hispanic, Black, and AI/AN persons represent 41% of the U.S. population aged <21 years, yet they accounted for approximately 75% of deaths in this report.

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- Deaths were more prevalent in males and the 10–20 year age range, with young adults aged 18–20 years accounting for nearly half of all deaths in this population.
- 75% of decedents had at least one underlying condition, and 45% had two or more underlying conditions: chronic lung disease, including asthma (34 [28%]), obesity (33 [27%]), neurologic and developmental conditions (26 [22%]), and cardiovascular conditions (22 [18%]).
- A substantial proportion of out-of-hospital deaths in association with SARS-CoV-2 infection occurred among all age groups in this analysis.

CDC COVID-19 Science Update Library

The [COVID-19 Science Update](#) series, the first of its kind for a CDC emergency response, provides brief summaries of new COVID-19-related studies on many topics, including epidemiology, clinical treatment and management, laboratory science, and modeling. These summaries are released every Tuesday and Friday.

Each article in the update includes a brief summary of its key findings, methods, and implications. Each issue also includes an “In Brief” section, which lists recent additional articles, editorials and commentaries, that while not summarized, are felt to contain important information related to COVID-19.

Preparing for the Second Wave

Admiral Brett Giroir, MD, assistant secretary for health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, believes the nation is [better prepared for a second wave](#) of COVID-19 than we were earlier in the year. Our ventilator, PPE, and testing supplies are well ahead of baseline. And, advances in testing have exponentially improved from the beginning of the pandemic. The U.S. government has purchased 150 million Binax Now rapid nasal swab tests from Abbott and Admiral Giroir claims the U.S. will be able to make 48 million of them per month.

Transmission

Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A Review of Viral, Host, and Transmission Factors

This [Annals of Internal Medicine article](#) is a review of COVID-19 to date and includes an overview of transmission factors, including a list of superspreader events.

Prevention and Treatment

Ten Clinical Tips for Health Care Providers

CDC updated its [clinical tips for health care providers](#) and also created a [single page fact sheet](#). Included are broad categories of treatment and prophylaxis, symptoms and diagnosis, co-infections, and severe illness.

Medical Device Hazard Report on Imported N95-Style Masks

ECRI, a non-profit that conducts independent medical device evaluations, sent out a high priority report, [“Use of Imported N95-Style Masks, Without NIOSH Certification or Independent Lab, Validation May Put Healthcare Workers and Patients at Risk During the Pandemic.”](#) The report has three key messages:

- Use of imported N95-style respirators (face-filtering respirators [FFRs]) that lack NIOSH certification may not provide the same level of wearer protection as certified models.
- Testing has shown that 60-70% of the imported non-NIOSH-certified respirator alternatives currently exhibit filtration performance significantly inferior to NIOSH-certified N95s.
- Use of non-NIOSH-approved respirators, especially for aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs), may increase staff and patient exposure to COVID-19.

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Rutgers' Quick Method to Decontaminate N95 Masks

Two Rutgers-led studies found there may be a faster way to decontaminate N95 masks using [vaporized hydrogen peroxide to decontaminate N95 masks](#). According to the article, “This new method of stacking masks on racks in piles didn't interfere with decontamination, took up less space and reduced the hands-on time needed by almost 67 percent.” The studies [found](#) that not all N95 models provided inadequate protection for re-users.

Vaccines

Vaccine Resistance Grows

This latest [Axios-Ipsos poll](#) shows that 6 in 10 Americans now say they won't take the vaccine as soon as it's available, up from 53% just three weeks ago.

Major Vaccine Developers Release Detailed Protocols

This Medscape article describes the [vaccine trial protocols](#) from Moderna, Pfizer, and AstraZeneca. Moderna's primary trial objectives are evaluating efficacy, safety, and reactogenicity of two injections of the vaccine administered 28 days apart and randomly assign 30,000 adults to receive either vaccine or placebo. The estimated primary completion date is October 27, 2022. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine trial's estimated enrollment is 29,481 adults and the estimated primary completion date is April 19, 2021. The three primary objectives of the AstraZeneca trial include estimating the efficacy, safety, tolerability, and reactogenicity associated with two intramuscular doses of the vaccine in comparison with placebo in adults. The projected enrollment is 30,000 participants with an estimated primary completion date of December 2, 2020.

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

MMWR Early Release on Contact Tracing in Two North Carolina Counties

Data from two counties in North Carolina were analyzed between June 1 and July 12 (a period of high incidence) to assess [local COVID-19 contact tracing implementation](#). Health department staff members investigated 5,514 (77%) persons with COVID-19 in Mecklenburg County and 584 (99%) in Randolph County.

According to the MMWR, “35% (Randolph County) to 48% (Mecklenburg County) of patients with COVID-19 did not report contacts. This proportion is high relative to proportions noted for other infectious diseases before the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. There are a few probable reasons for this. First, limiting contact tracing to a telephone conversation might have inhibited the ability of public health workers to establish a rapport and elicit contacts. Second, persons with COVID-19 might have sought to avoid subjecting their contacts to quarantine control measures, including potential loss of work and related economic consequences. Despite efforts to reach all elicited contacts, one quarter of contacts in Mecklenburg and nearly one half in Randolph County were not reachable. Contacts might have been reluctant to answer phone calls from unknown numbers; 2%–4% who were reached declined health department monitoring. Finally, the high volume of work might have contributed to staff members' ability to trace contacts.”

Improved timeliness of contact tracing, community engagement, and increased use of community-wide mitigation are needed to interrupt SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

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SARS CoV-2 Reference Panel Comparative Data

The FDA has been [gathering performance data for 59 molecular diagnostic COVID-19 tests](#) that received an EUA. The FDA compared each test's limit of detection (LoD). The LoD reflects the sensitivity of the assay, the minimum amount of virus that must be present in a sample to yield a positive result. The list is alphabetical and can also be searched by keyword.

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)

Considerations for Monitoring and Evaluation of Mitigation Strategies Implemented in IHEs

CDC provided this update for IHEs to [evaluate and monitor different mitigation strategies](#) implemented as they reopened this fall. The piece lists a host of potential questions and data sources and references the June edition of the ACHA Survey Report on Health Centers' Pandemic Operating Status and Response.

Health Experts Push Back Against Undercurrent of Pessimism about College Reopenings

This Inside Higher Ed article provides [a balanced perspective](#) on the case counts at colleges and the definitions of success in the planning, risk reduction, and reopening process.

College COVID-19 Dashboards

The [Rate My Dashboard](#) website, created by two professors at Yale and students from other colleges, grades colleges' COVID-19 dashboards. The Chronicle notes that a [lack of uniformity among dashboards](#) undermines their value.

Mental Health

Mitigating the Health Effects of Social Isolation and Loneliness

In February 2020, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) released a consensus study report "Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System." [This article](#) is a follow up of that report and provides a preliminary outline of proposed research priorities to inform strategies to mitigate the health effects of social isolation and loneliness, especially for those who were socially isolated and/or lonely prior to the new interactional norms and for those newly at risk.

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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