



AMERICAN
COLLEGE
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

ACHA COVID-19 Update: September 30, 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.

ACHF and Hologic Webinar

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

Last week, members of the ACHA Sexual Health Promotion and Clinical Care Coalition's leadership team reviewed the ACHA Guidelines: [Best Practices in Sexual Health Promotion and Clinical Care](#), provided suggestions for how to adapt in the COVID-19 era, answered participant questions, and previewed a new toolkit designed to assist with organizational development and implementation. The [recorded webinar](#) is available on ACHA's YouTube channel. This webinar was sponsored by the American College Health Foundation with support from Hologic.

Data, Numbers, and Epidemiology

MMWR: Recent Increases in COVID-19 Cases Reported Among Adults Aged 18-22

In August 2020, CDC and case-reporting jurisdictions identified [an increase in the percentage of COVID-19 cases among persons aged 18–22 years](#). Incidence in this age group changed 2.1-fold, compared with a 1.5-fold change in testing (possibly related to new screening practices as colleges and universities reopened).

When examined by race and ethnicity nationally, during August 2–September 5, the weekly incidence among White persons aged 18-22 years increased 149.7% from 48 per 100,000 to 120. During May 31–June 20, the proportion of weekly cases that occurred among White persons aged 18–22 years increased from 33.8% to 50.8%. Then, during August 2–September 5, the proportion was 1.5-fold that during May 31–June 20, having increased from 52.1% to 77.3%. At the same time, incidence among persons of other racial and ethnic minority groups remained stable or declined. The largest increases in incidence among White persons were in the Midwest and the Northeast. Some of this increase could be due to the resumption of colleges and universities.

MMWR Update: Characteristics of Health Care Personnel (HCP) with COVID-19 Feb 12-July 16

This [MMWR update](#) which looked at demographics, underlying medical conditions, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, occupation type, and job setting of 100,570 health care personnel (HCP) with COVID-19 during February 12–July 16 was released last Friday. Most were female (79%), aged 16–44 years (57%), not hospitalized (92%), and had no underlying medical conditions (56%). Of HCP with COVID-19, 641 died. Those who died tended to be older than 65, male, Asian, Black, and have an underlying medical condition. Nurses were the most frequently identified single occupation type (30%), and nursing and residential care facilities were the most common job setting (67%).

(Continues on next page)

The MMWR states, "ensuring access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and training, and practices such as universal use of face masks at work, wearing masks in the community, and observing social distancing remain critical strategies to protect HCP and those they serve."

Prevention and Treatment

Scientists Work on Nasal Spray that Could Stop COVID-19 Virus Replicating

This Guardian article looks at a [preprint study researching a nasal spray](#) called INNA-051 that was administered into the noses of three groups of six ferrets, while a fourth group of six ferrets received placebo. The nasal spray works by triggering the immune system including the release of cytokines, which stimulate mechanisms that stop the virus replicating inside cells. Five days after the ferrets were exposed to the coronavirus, the quantity of viral RNA recovered from throat swabs was reduced by 96% among those given INNA-051 compared with those given the placebo.

Vaccines

Webinar: Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine

The National Academies will release the final "Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine" report during a [webinar sponsored by NIH and CDC](#) and hosted by study committee co-chairs William Foege and Helene Gayle, this Friday, October 2 at 10:00 AM EDT. The discussion draft was released on September 1 to obtain public input. This final report will include recommendations for ensuring equity in distribution, administration, and access to the vaccine, effective community engagement, risk communication, strategies to promote vaccine acceptance, and equitable global allocation. Registration is free.

Axios-Ipsos Poll: Americans Won't Take Trump's Word on Vaccine

According to the [latest Axios-Ipsos survey](#) of 1,075 adults launched September 24-27, only 20% of Americans would get the first generation COVID-19 vaccine based on President Trump's word it is safe, while 62% would take it based on their doctor's endorsement.

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

Spotlight on the Broad Institute

This Scientific American piece focuses on the [Broad Institute's work](#) with over 100 northeast colleges and universities to provide inexpensive and quick turnaround time testing. Tests are priced at \$25 each with results within 24 hours. Twice weekly testing, robust contact tracing and swift isolation/quarantine have kept infection rates low at Tufts, Bowdoin, and UMass Amherst.

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)

(Continues on next page)

Too Early to Tell if College Students Spread COVID-19 Beyond Campuses?

This Chronicle of Higher Education article looks at [outbreaks on several campuses and the surprising lack of spread](#) into the local community. Public health and campus officials believe this is due to swift action to contain, which included switching to remote, expanded testing, wearing masks, and maintaining distance. Spillover into the community also depends on the connectedness of the campus and the surrounding area. However, Christopher Marsicano, co-author of the preprint article "College Openings, Mobility, and the Incidence of COVID-19 Cases" believes opening campuses have contributed to an additional average 3,000 cases of COVID-19 in their communities, and it will take a couple of more weeks to see the spillover from campus outbreaks.

College Success Stories

This Chronicle of Higher Education article highlights several IHEs as campuses where COVID-19 is ["relatively under control"](#). The article states, "At the campuses where COVID is relatively under control, common themes emerge: a commitment to testing asymptomatic students, an effective "we're in this together" pitch to the campus, and a location where viral spread in the surrounding cities and counties is low." Robust contact tracing and swift isolation/quarantine are also critical.

College Restarts and Rise in COVID-19 in Young Adults

This [CIDRAP update](#) includes information on the CDC data that shows COVID-19 cases in young adults at the national level more than doubled and on the federal government's plan to send 6.5 million coronavirus rapid tests to states to help governors open K-12 schools.

Colleges Hiring Students as COVID 19 Safety Influencers

This New York Times piece covers universities [hiring students as social influencers](#). Acknowledging that students don't read emails or listen to administrative messages from university officials but will listen to their peers, campuses have turned to students for help. The Times interviewed hired students from several schools who have either been hired by the school itself or by a marketing firm on behalf of the school.

Mental Health

COVID-19's Psychological Impact Gets a Name

Researchers have formalized a definition of the long-term mental health symptoms associated with the pandemic, including anxiety and depression, calling it "coronaphobia." According to [this Medscape article](#), "The term is a catch-all phrase for the fear and the emotional and social strain experienced by the general public in response to COVID-19. Obsessive behaviors, distress, avoidance reaction, panic, anxiety, hoarding, paranoia, and depression are some of the responses associated with coronaphobia." Coronaphobia may be likely to occur in those who feel vulnerable to disease, are predisposed to anxiety, or are intolerant of uncertainty.

Health Disparities/Health Equity

MMWR: Disparities in COVID-19 Incidence, Hospitalizations, and Testing by Area Level Deprivation

This MMWR, released on Friday, shows that during March 3–June 9, 2020, [risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection in very high-deprivation areas](#) of Utah were three times higher than those in very low-deprivation areas; rates of hospitalization and testing were also higher in higher-deprivation areas.

(Continues on next page)

- These areas were characterized by larger proportions of Hispanic and non-White residents, persons working in manual, essential, and public-facing sectors, more crowded housing, and food and health care insecurity.
- Enhanced mitigation strategies might include increasing availability and accessibility of SARS-CoV-2 testing, contact tracing, isolation options, preventive care, disease management, and prevention guidance in more deprived areas.

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>



AMERICAN
COLLEGE
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION