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ACHA COVID-19 Update: September 9, 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 COVID-19 Summit

COVID-19 Virtual Summit 2: 344 Days and Counting

The Call for Programs ends September 21! Submit a proposal [here](#).

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

The summit will take place December 8-9, and the Call for Programs deadline has been extended to September 21, 2020.

ACHF and Hologic Webinar

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

On September 25, 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 is sponsored by the American College Health Foundation with support from Hologic.

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

Cost: Free

[Register here.](#)

This webinar will be archived.

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Speakers:

Joanne Brown, DNP, APRN, WHNP-C, FNP-C (she/her), Nurse Practitioner, University of Kentucky; Past Chair, ACHA Sexual Health Promotion & Clinical Care Coalition

Blake Flaugher, MPH, CHES (he/him), Health Promotion Specialist, University of California Davis; Chair, ACHA Sexual Health Promotion & Clinical Care Coalition

Brandy Reeves, MPH, CHES (she/her), Director, Student Wellness Center, University of Cincinnati; Secretary, ACHA Sexual Health Promotion & Clinical Care Coalition

Moderator:

Claudia Trevor-Wright, MA, JD, MCHES, ACHF Consultant, Coordinator, Sexual Health Promotion & Clinical Care Best Practices Toolkit Project

Transmission

Coronavirus on Surfaces: What's the Real Risk?

This Medscape article reinforces current information about the [low risk of COVID-19 transmission via fomites](#). Early in the pandemic, concerns with virus longevity on various surfaces, including food spawned a buying frenzy for disinfectants, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizing agents. Since we now know the primary mode of transmission is through respiratory droplets in the air, continue to wear a mask, physically distance, wash hands, and "keep your surroundings clean, but don't go overboard with the disinfecting."

Small Gatherings Quietly Emerge as Source of COVID-19 Infections

This USA Today piece discusses the [effect of small gatherings on the spread of COVID-19](#). "Small gatherings are a concern because there's so many of them. They may account for a much greater proportion of the cases than we think right now," said Dr. George Rutherford, a colleague of Chin-Hong's at UCSF and the principal investigator for California's contact tracing program.

Vaccines

Drug Companies Try to Reassure the Public About Vaccine Safety

In an [unprecedented demonstration of unity](#), nine leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies (Moderna, AstraZeneca, Pfizer and BioNTech, Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi, and Novavax) pledged to seek approval for COVID-19 vaccines only "after demonstrating safety and efficacy through a Phase 3 clinical study."

AstraZeneca Halts Phase 3 Vaccine Study

Just hours after the multi-company pledge was announced, AstraZeneca [announced](#) it was halting the Phase 3 trial of its candidate vaccine, AZD1222, due to a "suspected serious adverse reaction" in a UK participant. The participant is expected to recover but the pause in the trial was done, according to the company "out of an abundance of caution" while they investigate further.

New York Times Vaccine Tracker

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

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Testing and Tracking/Tracing

GuideSafe System in Alabama

The state of [Alabama is implementing an initiative called GuideSafe tools](#), utilizing a combination of technologies for symptom checking, testing notification, tracking, and notification of potential exposure to COVID-19 in all of its public IHEs and most of its private IHEs. Students and staff self-screen using an app called Health Check, and 2.5% to 3% of a campus population will be tested weekly. The GuideSafe exposure notification app works by "exchanging anonymous codes with other phones that also have the app. The phones must be within 6 feet of each other for at least 15 minutes. If a user tests positive for COVID-19, that person can report it on the app, and once that test is verified, those who have been in close contact with that person within the last 14 days will be alerted. The person's identity and location aren't disclosed." The notification app has been downloaded more than 44,000 times statewide and as of August 30, the app has released notifications of 46 positive verifications of COVID-19 exposures among its users.

Rapid Testing and a Return to Normal

In this [NPR-WBUR podcast](#), Dr. Michael Mina, assistant professor of epidemiology and assistant professor of immunology and infectious diseases at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, discusses, among other things, how frequent, rapid home testing could "sever the chain of transmission" and help us return to normal. Dr. Mina makes an interesting observation that at times clinical medicine's regulatory diagnostic testing pathway is at odds with public health pathways. The podcast also includes an interview with the University of Arizona's Dr. Ian Pepper and his discussion of the wastewater surveillance of the residence halls that discovered two asymptomatic students early.

Apple and Google Build Virus Tracing Tech Directly into Phones

Apple and Google [announced](#) the launch of the second phase of their exposure notification system, designed to automatically alert people if they might have been exposed to the coronavirus. Maryland, Nevada, Virginia and Washington, D.C. are expected to be the first in the U.S. to launch the new version of this tool. The technology relies on Bluetooth wireless signals to determine whether an individual has spent time near anyone else who has tested positive for the virus. The app relies on proximity rather than geography and won't reveal personal identifying info.

America Needs a Coherent Asymptomatic Testing Strategy

This [Propublica article](#) summarizes the importance of asymptomatic testing, CDC's recent testing guidance changes, Dr. Redfield's softening of the language, and once again, the call for a clear national strategy.

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)

Modeling COVID-19 Spread in Small Colleges

This modeling study by Bahl and colleagues looked at [COVID-19 spread in a hypothetical small residential college](#) of 2,000 students (1,500 on campus, 500 off campus) and 380 faculty. Primary findings:

- Without intervention, most students and faculty become infected.
- Comprehensive testing and face mask compliance are the most effective single interventions.

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- Building closures may increase total infections.
- Shortening time to receive test results reduces total infections.
- Strong, unified administrative policy and student adherence result in the best outcomes.

Mental Health

JED Foundation POV on Student Mental Health and Well-Being

The JED Foundation provides recommendations/considerations to [support the mental health and well-being needs of students](#) this fall. The summary references data from the joint [ACHA and Healthy Minds survey](#) and ACE's [Strategies for Leaders to Support Campus Well-Being](#) document, to which ACHA contributed its expertise. This is a rich piece filled with links to round out and provide more information on strategic planning, life skills development, social connectedness, identifying students at risk, increasing help-seeking behavior, providing mental health and substance use services, crisis management procedures, and restricting access to potential lethal means.

Health Disparities/Health Equity

ACHA Virtual Summit “Closing the Gap: Strategies to Promote Health Equity and Racial Justice on Campus”

Deadline for Submissions is September 14, 2020. Submit a proposal [here](#).

As our nation continues to struggle with racial inequity and campuses work to ensure the health and mental health needs of students of color are met, this summit seeks to provide practical strategies and guidance on how universities can effectively identify gaps and design programs and policies to achieve justice and health equity. Using a case-study methodology, the summit will also explore real-life examples of innovative programs and policies currently in use on campuses and will explore how campuses measure progress.

We're specifically looking for submissions that address the following:

- Strategies for identifying campus needs for racial justice and health equity
- Prioritizing focus areas
- Strategies to address racial justice and health equity on campus
- Methodologies and evaluations that can measure progress in closing gaps
- Frameworks and tools that can assist campus efforts

The summit will take place October 27-28, 2020.

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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