COVID-19 Provider Updates
April 17, 2020

COVID-19 Quick Hits

Baltimore City Health Department Clinician Page can be found here

1. Baltimore City has created a **Baltimore City COVID-19 dashboard**.

2. BCHD **"Coronavirus Self-Checker" Healthcare Bot** is live (see lower right hand corner of website).

3. PPE continues to be in **severe shortage.** Baltimore City healthcare partners should first attempt to meet their needs through the normal supply chain and back-up vendors. If critically low on supply, please see page 3 to make a **PPE request**.

4. COVID-19 Baltimore City testing is still limited but rapidly evolving. Each testing site has its own protocol, restrictions, and availability. **Here** is a list of non-office based COVID-19 testing sites in Maryland.

5. Many companies have released **new SARS-CoV-2 antibody tests.** It is important for Baltimore clinicians to know that:

   - Antibody tests *have not been reviewed by the FDA.*
   - Antibody tests should not be used for diagnostics purposes.
   - Right now, antibody tests are best used to detect the prevalence of the virus at the population level.
   - Even if antibody tests are accurate, it is not known whether patients who have antibodies are immune to SARS-CoV-2 infection.
   - Additionally, many SARS-CoV-2 Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) exist. Some NAAT tests have been approved by the FDA and some have not.
   - You can find a list of FDA-approved tests here. *You should exercise caution when buying tests.*

6. Recent studies from France and Brazil **could not support hydroxychloroquine (HCQ)** as an effective treatment for COVID-19.

   - Some patients in France needed to discontinue HCQ due to adverse side effects like cardiac arrhythmia and the Brazil study was halted after patients on high dose HCQ developed ventricular tachycardia before death

   - The IDSA guideline panel currently recommends HCQ only in the context of a clinical trial due to current knowledge gaps.

7. To avoid overburdening the healthcare system, employers **should not require a healthcare provider's note nor a COVID-19 test** to approve sick leave for an employee sick with respiratory disease or as clearance to return to work. For more guidance for employers/employees from Baltimore City Health Dept. see link **here**.

Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health
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Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
Local Information

1. MDH has up-to-date answers to most frequently asked testing questions here. (4/9)

2. Patients may ask about MDH's COVID-19 testing at Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (VEIP) sites. You can find details about this program here. Patients need a lab order from their provider, their ID, and an appointment time. Locations are:

a. *Glen Burnie VEIP (Anne Arundel County)*
   721 E. Ordnance Road
   Curtis Bay, MD 21226

   b. *Bel Air VEIP (Harford County)*
   1631 Robin Circle
   Forest Hill, MD 21050

   c. *Waldorf VEIP (Charles County)*
   28 Henry Ford Circle
   Waldorf, MD 20601

   d. *Columbia VEIP (Howard County)*
   6340 Woodside Ct., #1071
   Columbia, MD 21046

   e. *White Oak VEIP (Montgomery County)*
   2121 Industrial Parkway
   Silver Spring, MD 20904

Other MDH Resources
1. Most recent letter from MDH to clinicians regarding testing can be found here (3/26)
2. MDH provides signage for your clinic addressing social distancing, hand washing, and preventing sick people from entering the building.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Guidances
1. Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings (4/13*)* link

2. Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages (4/13*)* link

3. Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings: Responding to Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States (4/7) link

4. Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) (4/3*)* link

5. Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators (4/2) link

Resources
1. CDC has created a spreadsheet tool Personal Protective Equipment Burn Rate Calculator for healthcare facilities to plan / optimize PPE.

2. See CDC frequently asked COVID-19 clinical questions here. (4/11)

COVID-19 Clinical Management Links

Baltimore City Health Department
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health

1. Brigham and Women's Hospital regularly updated COVID-19 Protocols link
2. UCSF Hospitalist Handbook is now free for download during COVID-19 link
3. Up-to-Date COVID-19 (No Paywall) link

Research Spotlight
1. NEJM Article: Compassionate Use of Remdesivir for Patients with Severe Covid-19 link
   - Cohort study of 53 patients receiving compassionate-use remdesivir 68% with clinical improvement

2. CDC MMWR Report: Characteristics of Health Care Personnel with COVID-19 — United States, February 12–April 9, 2020 link

PPE Request Process
1. Complete the MDH Emergency Medical Materials Request Form (link)

2. Send the request form to MedResourceRequest@baltimorecity.gov

3. BCHD staff will contact you directly to discuss the specifics of your request. Please allow up to 48 hours for review and processing. Note: we continue to request materials from the State, but quantities of supplies on hand are extremely limited.

4. If BCHD is able to fulfill your request, you will be asked to designate a facility representative we can work with to coordinate pick-up of the supplies. Your delivery driver will be required to show a facility ID badge and a photo ID, and must sign a chain-of-custody form to receive the materials.