



COVID-19 Provider Updates

June 15, 2020

COVID-19 Quick Hits

Baltimore City Health Department Clinician Page [here](#) | Baltimore City COVID-19 [dashboard](#)

1. The Maryland Department of Health has issued new guidance on COVID-19 testing. The new guidance includes the prioritization of testing for asymptomatic individuals who may have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. More information can be found in the [health order](#) issued on 6/12/20.
2. In a recent [letter](#), The Maryland Department of Health has urged physicians to contact those families in their practice whose children have missed a vaccination. Use resources provided by the [#callyourpediatrician](#) campaign to strongly encourage parents to bring their children's vaccinations up to date.
3. Baltimore City remains in Phase 1 of reopening. The Baltimore City Health Department COVID-19 [Dashboard](#) has been updated with two new links. You can now find information on the reopening phases, which describes each phase of reopening, and the reopening indicators, which track the criteria needed for entering each new reopening phase in Baltimore city.
4. [CHARMcare](#), our resource database, has been updated with information around supporting members of the community during this difficult time when the realities of racism in America have been further revealed. Please encourage your patients to check CHARMcare for available resources around mental health, food, legal matters, and others.
5. Please inform your patients who are positive for COVID-19 that the health department will be calling them to **conduct contact tracing**. When the phone rings, the caller ID will read "MD COVID." The health department will never ask for your patient's social security number, financial information, or their immigration status.
6. See [here](#) for more information about what to expect when placing orders for your patients to get tested via CRISP, and don't forget to [register](#) for a webinar on June 17 about viewing your patient's COVID-19 results through the CRISP unified landing page (ULP).
7. The TRI Center at Lord Baltimore Hotel is now open to community referrals for individuals who cannot safely isolate for COVID in their homes. Referrals can be placed by providers, or community members can call to self-refer. Calls are accepted seven days a week 8AM-7PM at 443-984-8915.
8. The MDPCP program management office is offering an interactive, 3-hour training [program](#), designed to provide primary care physicians with a roadmap to reopening their practices.

Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

1. MDH has again updated their answers to the **most frequently asked testing questions** [here](#). You can direct your patients to this information.
2. Patients may ask about MDH's COVID-19 testing at **Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (VEIP) sites**. You can find updated details about this program [here](#), and a list of all Maryland testing sites [here](#).

Recently Published Research:

1. Li et al. **Effect of Convalescent Plasma Therapy on Time to Clinical Improvement in Patients with Severe and Life-threatening COVID-19 - A Randomized Clinical Trial**. JAMA. June 3 2020. [Link](#)
2. Dowling et al. **Policy Solutions for Reversing the Color-blind Public Health Response to COVID-19 in the US**. JAMA. June 4 2020. [Link](#)
3. Whitaker et al. **Clinical Characteristics of 58 Children with a Pediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome Temporally Associated with SARS-CoV-2**. JAMA. June 8 2020. [Link](#)

Spotlight: Specific recommendations for improving the health of communities of color during the COVID-19 pandemic

1. Read (or reread) [this article](#) by Dr. Jones that describes the complexity of racism in our society.
2. Right now, pay particular attention to your patients who are a part of marginalized communities. Check-in on them via email or phone to ensure that their various health needs are being met.
3. Familiarize yourself with some of the top resources on [CHARMcare](#). Many of the health inequities present in communities of color result from processes of systemic racism, but we can help reduce these inequities by recognizing the myriad needs of our patients and helping to connect them with resources.
4. Consider initiating conversations in your practice around advancing equity and justice in healthcare. The [curriculum](#) provided by the Bixby Center for Global reproductive health and the [resource library](#) provided by Racial Equity Tools can be used to facilitate these conversations.

Frequently Requested Resources

1. **Testing Sites:** A map of Baltimore City testing sites can be found [here](#).
2. **Physician Support:** For free & confidential peer-to-peer provider calls dial 1(888)409-0141 open 7 days a week from 8am - 12am EST, or click [here](#).
3. **CHARMcare:** Our Community Resource Database can be found [here](#). If you have any resources that you would like to see in CHARMcare, please e-mail Charmcare@baltimorecity.gov and Lindsay.Adams@baltimorecity.gov
4. **COVIDView:** A Weekly Surveillance Summary of U.S. COVID-19 Activity can be found [here](#).

5. **FAQs:** Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
6. **COVID-19 forecasts:** National and State forecasts of cumulative deaths due to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
7. **COVID-19 literature:** A summary of recently published articles focusing on COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
8. **CDC Training for Healthcare Professionals:** A hub of CDC webinars on COVID-19 Clinical Care & Infection control, PPE Donning & Doffing, Emergency Preparedness and Response can be found [here](#).
9. **Volunteer Staffing Opportunities:** information on the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps (MRMRC) can be found [here](#).
10. **Employment Opportunities:** Job requests for healthcare professionals and support staff can be found [here](#). Baltimore City Health Corps contact tracing and related job postings can be found [here](#).
11. **PPE Request Process:**
 - a. Complete the MDH Emergency Medical Materials Request [Form](#).
 - b. Send the request form to MedResourceRequest@baltimorecity.gov.
 - c. BCHD staff will contact you directly to discuss the specifics of your request. Please allow up to 48 hours for review and processing.
 - d. 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