COVID-19 Provider Updates
May 11, 2020

COVID-19 Quick Hits

Baltimore City Health Department Clinician Page here |Baltimore City COVID-19 dashboard

1. CDC **updated their testing guidance** to recommend priority Nucleic Acid or Antigen testing of some asymptomatic groups according to local health department recommendations.

2. On May 11, Baltimore City Health Department released a **clinician letter** providing greater clarity around the current pathways to provide patients COVID-19 testing.

3. CMS stated that **Medicare and Medicaid will cover COVID-19 diagnostic tests** when ordered by any health care professional. CMS will also cover certain serology (antibody) tests.
   a. New HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal - Providers can claim reimbursement for testing and treating uninsured individuals for COVID—19. Click here for more info.

4. On May 1, **MDH sent a clinician letter** clarifying Maryland's exclusion guidance for Healthcare Personnel (HCP) following exposure to or diagnosis with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, based on recently revised CDC guidance on HCP confirmed or suspected COVID-19 stay home from work for at least 10 days after their symptom onset.

5. CDC updated its **home isolation guidance** to recommend isolation for at least 10 days since symptom onset, even if symptoms have resolved for over 72 hours. Baltimore City Health Department has resources for clinicians about home isolation available here.

6. State launches Maryland PPE Network Supplier Portal, the **Maryland Manufacturing Network Supplier Portal** is an online platform that helps connect Maryland suppliers with buyers in need of critical resources.

7. FDA issued an **Emergency Use Authorization for Remdesivir** administration in adults and children with severe COVID-19. The EUA follows an NIH study that shows accelerated *time to recovery* with Remdesivir treatment for severely ill patients. The study also suggests a possible *survival* benefit, but it is not currently statistically significant.

8. FDA issued **new guidance** requiring all commercial antibody test manufacturers seek FDA approval within 10 days of marketing their test. Almost all commercially available antibody tests have not been evaluated by FDA. It is important for Baltimore clinicians to know that they should *not* use antibody tests as diagnostic tests.

9. CRISP unveiled a new at-risk patient identifier tool called **the COVID-19 Social Susceptibility Index.** The index analyzes multiple factors to score high and severe-risk patients for proactive outreach and support. The score variable appears in the Pre-AH Prevent Avoidable Hospital Events tool in CRISP.

10. Governor Hogan extended his **executive order** (4/29) prohibiting utility providers from shutting off or charging late fees for residential services, including electric, water, phone, and internet through June 1.

11. **Volunteer staffing opportunities** -Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps (MRMRC). Visit https://mdresponds.health.maryland.gov

12. **Employment opportunities** for healthcare professionals and support staff can be found in the following link: https://www.smartrecruiters.com/lab/marylandmednow/

Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

Local Information

1. MDH has again updated their answers to **most frequently asked testing questions** here. (4/30) 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 (4/30.) There are two new locations added this week. Patients need a provider referral to the site AND a confirmed appointment made in CRISP and an appointment time. Baltimore City Health Department testing locations and VEIP sites are:

   A. Druid Hill Park
   Rawlings Conservatory
   3100 Swann Dr
   Baltimore MD 21217

   B. Clifton Park
   2801 St Lo Drive
   Baltimore MD 21213

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

   D. Bel Air VEIP (Harford County)

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1631 Robin Circle
Forest Hill, MD 21050

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

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

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

H. Owings Mills VEIP
11510 Cronridge Dr
Owings Mills, MD 21117

I. Prince Frederick VEIP
1035 N Prince Frederick Blvd
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Guidances
1. Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID -19 Not in Healthcare Settings (5/3) Link
2. Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (5/5) Link
3. Healthcare Personnel and First Responders: How to Cope with Stress and Build Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic (5/5) Link
4. Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (5/5) Link

Resources
COVIDView: A Weekly Surveillance Summary of U.S. COVID-19 Activity (5/1) Link

COVID-19 Clinical Management Links
1. Johns Hopkins University **COVID-19 Resource Hub** link
2. British Medical Journal's article **"COVID-19: a remote assessment in primary care"** link
   a. Helpful tips for assessing patients with symptoms of possible COVID-19 via telemedicine

Research Spotlight
1. Wang Y. et al. **Remdesivir in adults with severe COVID-19**: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicentre trial. The Lancet. 29 April 2020. Link.

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2. Gold J. et al. **Characteristics and Clinical Outcomes of Adult Patients Hospitalized with COVID-19** — Georgia, March 2020. MMWR Report. 29 April 2020. Link

3. Wadhera R. et al. **Variation in COVID-19 Hospitalizations and Deaths Across New York City** Boroughs. JAMA. 29 April 2020. Link.

4. Schuchat A. **Public Health Response to the Initiation and Spread of Pandemic COVID-19** in the United States, February 24–April 21, 2020. MMWR Report. 1 May 2020. Link

COVID-19 & Baltimore City Social Determinants of Healthcare Spotlight
Now more than ever during COVID-19 we recognize the urgent need to connect people to social resources and streamline the coordination of stakeholders involved in this work. As we continue efforts to flatten the curve we recognize the necessity of recognizing and addressing another surging demand curve from secondary impacts of COVID-19 related to social needs.

- Consider signing up for **The Connection: Baltimore's Social Needs Newsletter**, put forth by the Baltimore City Health Department about our response to COVID-19, social determinants of health, and the work we and our partners are doing to ensure Baltimore residents get access to essential resources such as food, housing, and mental health

- **Health Disparities:** To date, Maryland's communities of color make up a disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. Communities of color have been subject to centuries of structural racism, which has led to disparities in housing, wealth, access to healthy food, access to clean and green spaces. This has impacted the health outcomes, stress levels, and access to care. These circumstances have significantly contributed to the underlying health conditions communities of color are experiencing and that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 and COVID-19 related death. This link between social determinants and the impacts of COVID-19 underscores the importance of addressing Baltimore's social needs in our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Community Resources:** Have you checked out CHARMCare? This is our resource database that contains information on available social, behavioral, and health services in Baltimore City. To ensure that anyone who visits CharmCare gets accurate, up-to-date, COVID-19, specific resources, we are working diligently to update all food resources every 48 hours, and all other resources weekly. To support our partners, and to ensure that we have a comprehensive set of resources, we are working with Baltimore's Maryland Access Point (MAP) program and Central Maryland 211.
    - If you have any resources that you would like to see in CHARMcare, please e-mail Charmcare@baltimorecity.gov and Lindsay.Adams@baltimorecity.gov

- COVID-19 has led to unprecedented **food insecurity**. For more info on Baltimore City Emergency Food Insecurity Response click here.
    - For the most up to date resources on Food, please visit CHARMcare.org and search for FOOD.

- ○ For a national look at food insecurity during COVID-19, please watch this pre-recorded [Food is Medicine Coalition Pre-recorded Webinar](): "Bringing Food Home DuringCOVID-19"

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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.
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