

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

December 9, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

CDC updates guidance on SARS-CoV-2 testing for health workers

The CDC provided updated recommendations for testing health care personnel for SARS-CoV-2. According to the guidance, testing can be considered in four situations:

- For early identification of those without symptoms or exposure who work in special settings such as nursing homes.
- To determine when a health care worker diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 is no longer infectious.
- When symptoms are consistent with COVID-19.
- When there is known exposure to SARS-CoV-2 regardless of symptoms.

Providers should aim for turnaround in less than 24 hours to facilitate effective interventions and are discouraged from testing the same person more than once in a 24-hour period.

UVGI, VHP appear best for N95 decontamination

Demand for N95 filtering facemask respirators during the COVID-19 pandemic far exceeds the supply, leading to concerns about how to best decontaminate them for reuse. [Fourteen studies reported](#) on methods for decontamination, including small-scale high-energy methods requiring disinfecting solutions, sprays and wipes. The methods found most effective were ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) and vaporized hydrogen peroxide (VHP). Among the criteria for determining effectiveness were biocidal efficacy, filtration performance, fitting characteristics and residual chemical toxicity.

New data suggests remdesivir can shorten how long people are sick

Gilead Sciences has revealed that new data on the experimental drug remdesivir confirms it can shorten the course of COVID-19 infections and suggests it also can save lives. According to the new results, 74% of patients in a late-stage clinical trial treated with remdesivir had recovered by their 14th day of hospitalization, compared to 59% of those who did not get the drug. Nearly 8% of the patients on remdesivir had died by day 14, versus more than 12% of patients who did not receive it.

CEO update call

The next CEO update call is scheduled from **1-2 pm Wednesday, July 29**. Register [here](#).

Free webinar opportunities

- 1-2 pm Tuesday, July 14, ***How COVID-19 is Changing the World for Hospitals***. Drawing on Kaufman Hall's proprietary data, analysis and CEO interviews, this webinar will quantify the effects on hospital volumes, revenues and margins. The presentation will also review the changes to the hospital competitive landscape, outline strategic scenarios for hospitals

based on their pre- and post-COVID conditions, and will address methods of planning through uncertainty. Robert Fromberg, chief communications officer of consulting with Kaufman Hall will serve as faculty. Before joining Kaufman Hall, Fromberg was vice president and editor-in-chief at HFMA. He also previously held leadership roles at ACHE. Register [here](#).

- 2-3 pm Tuesday, July 14, **Optimizing COVID-19 Financial Cost Recovery**. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, funding streams from various sources have been made available with different guidelines for eligible uses and reporting requirements. This complimentary webinar will provide a big picture view of the various funding options available to health care institutions from agencies, including Federal Emergency Management Agency, and focus on how hospitals and other health care facilities can develop a recovery strategy that optimizes the use of their available recovery dollars. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, July 15, **Returning to Work: A Comprehensive Protection System in Response to COVID-19**. This webinar discusses the specifics of practical, real-world return-to-work programs implemented on behalf of large, small and mid-sized employers. It provides a full playbook of steps/resources to use and customize for your facility, from temperature checks to quarantine plans, to overall plan implementation, staffing, monitoring and management. Register [here](#).

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