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2020-04-07 DAILY UNM GLOBAL HEALTH COVID-19 BRIEFING

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DAILY UNM GLOBAL HEALTH COVID-19 BRIEFING

April 7, 2020

Executive Summary

Today we celebrate World Health Day: JAMA suggests ways to support healthcare workers in the crisis. NM Emergency orders extended. Some NM prisoners freed. Pueblos threatened by outbreaks. CDC to provide \$186M in state funding for surveillance programs. Colleges hit hard financially. Nine states refuse to issue stay-at-home order. Wuhan cautiously ends its 76-day lockdown. Lack of cough and fever for children creates special challenges. Fauci JAMA interview tomorrow. WHO guidelines and megatrial of 4 therapies. Numerous CDC guidelines. 23 clinical trials registered today. One negative result on hydroxychloroquine efficacy. In vitro screens suggest promising FDA drugs for repurposing. JAMA clinical questions update. Vaccine trials launched.

New Mexico Highlights

- [Governor and Health Secretary extend emergency order until April 30 with new restrictions](#)
Essential retail stores limit the number of customers inside their stores to no more than 20% of maximum occupancy. Hotels and lodging, ordered to operate at no more than 25% of capacity – down from previous 50% threshold. Payday lenders, automobile dealers and liquor stores, must cease in-person business today under the governor's amended order. Health Secretary Kathy Kunkel order extension here, should be narrowly construed to encourage New Mexicans to stay in their homes for all but the most essential activities. Enforcement efforts to increase.
- [NM Department of Corrections to release incarcerated individuals to reduce prison populations](#)
Crowded conditions in correctional facilities pose risks to public safety and the incarcerated. To limit infection rates to the community at large, incarcerated individuals with a release date no more than 30 days away and a formulated parole plan will be candidates for early release. Incarcerated individuals who have been convicted of felony for DUI, domestic abuse, assault on an officer, or sexual assault ineligible for early release. Approximately 10 individuals will be released today.
- [State Officials ask people to not participate in pilgrimage](#)
Government officials, law enforcement and religious leaders are asking people to stay at home this Holy Week and to not participate in the annual pilgrimages to El Santuario de Chimayó or Tome Hill. Also, no safety arrangements or traffic control will be provided along pilgrimage routes by the New Mexico Department of Transportation.
- [NMDOH identifies COVID-19 clusters on Pueblos](#)
An outbreak is registered in [San Felipe Pueblo](#) (currently 52 cases) and in [Zia Pueblo](#) (currently 31 cases). Gov. Toribio implemented an 8 p.m. - 5 a.m. curfew ordering residents to stay on tribal land unless they are essential workers, have an emergency, or maintain a ranch. At this time, Tuesday and Wednesday are designated shopping days.
- [One additional death, 109 new COVID-19 cases reported in New Mexico](#)
109 new cases and 1 additional death were reported in New Mexico today. Cumulative cases and deaths are at: 794 and 13. There are 22,245 tests that have been performed in New Mexico.22,245.

US Highlights

- [CDC will provide \\$186M in funding for state and local jurisdictions to support coronavirus response](#)
CDC will use existing networks to help fund state and local jurisdictions. Two supplements: 1) an existing cooperative agreement to “hot zones” states and local jurisdictions to support activities such as lab equipment, supplies, staffing, shipping, infection control, surge staffing, monitoring of individuals, and data management; and 2) an existing cooperative agreement to States through the **Emerging Infections Program (EIP) to enhance surveillance capabilities. New Mexico has an active EIP program** that investigates and assesses the burden and severity of COVID-19, evaluates and determines risk factors

and outcomes, and plans and implements prevention strategies. Funds will also be used to assess and evaluate exposed/infected healthcare personnel through clinical interviews to better identify risk factors and protective factors for COVID-19 infection.

- [The coronavirus outbreak has triggered financial losses for many colleges across the USA and some have been pushed to the brink of collapse](#)

Short athletic seasons and refunds to students for housing, dining, and parking after campuses closed last month are taking a heavy toll on the budget of colleges. With national and international enrollment drop looming in the fall semester, colleges are bracing for more financial pain.

- [Nine states refuse to issue stay-at-home orders](#)

Even as most of the American states are under stay-at-home order to slow the spread of the coronavirus, nine governors have refused to issue statewide mandates that people stay at home. However, local leaders in some of those 9 states have taken action. North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Arkansas are the only states where no one is under a stay-at-home order.

International Highlights

- [China's virus pandemic epicenter Wuhan ends 76-day lockdown](#)

The lockdown that served as a model for countries battling the coronavirus around the world has ended after 11 weeks: Chinese authorities are allowing residents of Wuhan to once again travel, as long as a mandatory smartphone application powered by a mix of data-tracking and government surveillance shows they are healthy and have not been in recent contact with anyone confirmed to have the virus.

Epidemiology Highlights

- [Children who test positive for coronavirus exhibit symptoms differently](#)

Children who are positive for SARS-CoV-2 tend to have fewer and different symptoms, most notably, they are less likely to have a cough, fever, and shortness of breath, underscoring the need for social distancing and preventive behaviors since those with mild or no symptoms are a source of transmission. Severe outcomes, however, have been reported in children, including three deaths.

Policy, Economics, Workforce, Supply Chain, PPE Highlights

- [JAMA: honor healthcare workers with support and protection](#)

Requests from health care professionals to their organization during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic: "Hear me, protect me, prepare me, support me." A table of suggested ways to support healthcare workers is [here](#).

- [Pending JAMA interview: Anthony Fauci to discuss global COVID-19 developments Wed 4/8 10am MDT](#)

NIAID Director and Presidential Coronavirus Task Force Advisor Anthony Fauci discusses recent developments in the global COVID-19 pandemic with JAMA Editor Howard Bauchner.

- [WHO guidelines for infection control and protecting health care workers with potential Covid exposures.](#)

WHO has provided guidance for the use of medical masks, respirators and other personal protective equipment for healthcare workers. They also have a data collection instrument to be completed by each health care workers potentially exposed. These guidelines are periodically updated.

- [CDC's Interim Additional Guidance for Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings](#)

The guidelines include: Key Considerations for Healthcare Facilities, Actions to Take in Response to Community Transmission of COVID-19, and Other Considerations for Ambulatory Care Settings.

- [CDC recommendations on preparing your small business and employees for the effects of COVID-19](#)

CDC provides recommendations to protect employees and prepare small business for disruption.

- [CDC's recommendations for administrators, staff, people who are incarcerated, families](#)
CDC gives recommendations for administrators at correctional and detention facilities on how to prepare the facility for the possible spread of COVID-19. Also, it gives recommendations for staff at correctional and detention facilities, for people who are incarcerated and their family members on how to minimize the risk of being infected with covid-19, what to do if you think you are sick, as well as on the quarantine and visiting.
- [CDC mitigates healthcare personnel staffing shortages](#)
CDC recommends on contingency capacity and crisis capacity strategies for healthcare facilities, including adjustment of personnel, identification of designated healthcare facilities, isolation sites, or alternate care sites with adequate staffing to care for patients with COVID-19, as well as the ways to allow asymptomatic health care personnel to work.
- [CDC recommendations for COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings](#)
CDC gives recommendations about PPE for individuals transporting patients, health care personnel providing care to exposed asymptomatic patients evaluated for non-infectious complaint; as well as for environmental personnel who clean rooms of hospitalized patients with COVID-19. It also provides information on what procedures should be considered as aerosol generating, on how nasopharyngeal swabs can be performed, and on who should be placed into airborne infection isolation rooms, as well as other issues.

Science, Drugs, Therapeutics, Testing Highlights

- [WHO launches global megatrial of the four most promising coronavirus treatments](#)
WHO SOLIDARITY global clinical trial will include thousands of patients in dozens of countries. Drugs studied: Remdesivir, chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, ritonavir/lopinavir, and interferon-beta. Enrollment process: when a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 is deemed eligible, the physician can enter the patient's data into a WHO website, including comorbidities. Informed consent form is scanned and sent to WHO electronically. The website will randomize the patient to one of the drugs available to the hospital or to the local standard of care for COVID-19.
- [23 New COVID-19 Trials registered today at clinicaltrials.gov](#)
Treatment trials: Favipiravir, Hydroxychloroquine + Azithromycin vs. Hydroxychloroquine, Mavrilimumab, stem cells, Ruxolitinib, and high-dose vitamin C. At time of writing, a total of 364 were active, 23 completed, but only 3 posted results.
- [No evidence of rapid antiviral clearance or clinical benefit with hydroxychloroquine/azithromycin](#)
Negative study: 8 out of 10 patients tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 after 6 days of treatment with the combination hydroxychloroquine/azithromycin. This is contrary to the earlier "rapid viral clearance" report based on 6 patients.
- [In vitro screen of FDA-approved drug library reveals potential inhibitors of SARS-CoV-2 Replication](#)
1,520 chemicals, most of them approved drugs, evaluated to identify drugs that block the virus from killing cells (VeroE6 cells, SARS-CoV-2 strain BavPat1, 10 µM drug concentration). **Hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, azithromycin, and remdesivir** were re-confirmed. Novel drugs: Alprostadil (a prostaglandin inhibitor) and opipramol (an anxiolytic approved in Europe). The main value of this study is independent confirmation of the antiviral activity of the 4 main drugs currently used world-wide.
- [JAMA clinical update on COVID-19 pandemic: answers to important questions](#)
A negative RT-PCR result does not exclude COVID-19. Lower respiratory samples are more sensitive than a nasopharyngeal swab. New serological tests are being developed. This suggests that negative tests do not conclusively rule out COVID-19 and should be interpreted with caution until more sensitive measures are available. There is no validated immune marker yet. N95 masks supplies in the US remain limited. Authors recommend aggressive testing to identify asymptomatic and mild cases combined with proactive contact tracing and early isolation and quarantine of contacts, as well as a focus on reducing home-based transmission. Only 3 vaccine candidates are currently in phase 1 human trials. The estimated timeline for new vaccines is between early and mid-2021.
- [Influenza antiviral Avigan® \(favipiravir\) to enter Phase III trials in COVID-19 patients](#)
FUJIFILM Toyama Chemical Co. Ltd. is starting a Phase III trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of its anti-influenza drug, Avigan® (favipiravir) for patients of COVID-19. Avigan, approved in Japan as an influenza antiviral, selectively inhibits the RNA

polymerase of the influenza virus. Since SARS-CoV-2 uses the same type of enzyme to replicate and is classified into the same type of single-stranded RNA viruses as influenza, it is believed that Avigan will be effective in treating COVID-19.

- [Vaccine makers take their first shots at the new coronavirus](#)

With record-setting speed, vaccine makers take their first shots at the new coronavirus. Moderna and China's CanSino Biologics are the first to launch small clinical trials of vaccines against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to see whether they are safe and can trigger immune response.

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