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2020-04-13 DAILY UNM GLOBAL HEALTH COVID-19 BRIEFING

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DAILY UNM GLOBAL HEALTH COVID-19 BRIEFING

April 13, 2020

Executive Summary

Disproportionate Native American burden. CYFDNM feeding 20-25K children/day. Additional unemployment insurance. Enhanced SNAP payment. UNMH drug trials. Medical Advisory Team profiled. Efforts to reopen 6 States. Regional strategy to support Navajo Nation. England's PPE unprotective droplet spray. Health economics early stages. Targeting rural priority areas. Hong Kong and Singapore success unstable. End shutdown - army of PH workers. Tragedy of insufficient tests. Global food industry. Japan plastic barrier control. China healthcare worker death cause. India lacks testing, so contact tracing. Persistent viral shedding children. Fecal-oral transmission concern. Shop safely guidelines. UN humanitarian response recommendations. Self-interest to shared interest. Caring for maternity caregivers. Holistic palliative care. Telehealth. Rural pharmacies. Paramedic practice. Bronchology societies guidance. Rheumatologists on antirheumatic Rx. Dermatology guidance. Neuro-oncologic Tx. Radiology infection control. Infant infection classification. Pediatric microlaryngobronchoscopy. Dialysis in Italy. Tracheotomy steps. Thromboprophylaxis guidance. Acute dental care. Electromyography guidance. Airplane evacuation procedures. Cancer trial recommendations. Pharmacology Tx review. Hydroxychloroquine CVD risks. Today's clinical trials. Sedentary pandemic. COVID-19 induced thrombocytopenia (DIC). NAFLD worse outcomes. Smell and taste loss. Serum amyloid A. Neonate disease severity.

We have begun to assemble a continually updated list of new practice guidelines for care in the context of COVID-19 at this [public link](#), divided by practices and specialties.

NM Highlights

- [American Indian Populations bear disproportionate burden of cases in New Mexico](#)
American Indians make up about 11% of the NM population but represent about 29% of COVID-19 cases.
- [NM Children Youth and Families is feeding tens of thousands of children every day during the pandemic](#)
Children, Youth and Families Department of New Mexico (CYFDNM) is feeding between 20,000-25,000 kids every single day in the State of New Mexico, and that includes youth that are staying in homeless shelters.
- [New Mexicans receiving unemployment insurance will receive an additional \\$600 per week](#)
New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions announced that New Mexicans receiving unemployment insurance will begin receiving an additional \$600 per week of COVID-19 relief beginning the week of April 20th. No additional action is required in order to begin receiving the additional amount, other than continuing to certify weekly. [Video guide provided](#).
- [New Mexicans on food assistance from SNAP program receive maximum benefits allowable](#)
New Mexico households that qualify for aid from the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can receive an enhanced payment to enhance their benefits to the maximum for March and April. The state Human Services Department is offering a supplemental payment through SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, to provide relief to families.
- [UNM Hospital conducts trials with remdesivir, chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine](#)
Clinical trials conducted by Pulmonary critical care physician Dr. Michelle Harkins with colleagues.
- [New Mexico Medical Advisory Team media coverage](#)
The Medical Advisory Team is profiled: a group of more than 100 officials and experts set up by the New Mexico Department of Health to coordinate the state's health care systems during the COVID-19 crisis.

US Highlights

- [Six states to coordinate gradual reopening after coronavirus shutdown](#)
The states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut will join with neighboring Delaware, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island in coordinating their efforts to reopen the economy as signs the outbreak is stabilizing emerged over the weekend.
- [Mayors Seek answers as coronavirus ravages minority communities](#)
African Americans and Latinos disproportionately affected. Michelle Lujan Grisham said 25% of Covid-19 cases in her state as of a few days ago were found to be among Native minorities. We're looking at a regional strategy to support the leadership at the Navajo Nation between Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico," she said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." Efforts so far include setting up field hospitals and triage centers and delivering food through the National Guard.

Economics, Workforce, Supply Chain, PPE Highlights

- [England's Public Health guidance unprotective against droplet spray](#)
Testing for coverage from personal protective equipment: Public Health England's guidance does not protect healthcare workers from droplet spray.
- [Learnings for Health Economics from the Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
The author summarizes how we stand compared with adjacent fields and the implications for health economics (HE).
- [An approach to identify priority rural areas requiring targeted health support](#)
The proposed approach combines traditional single domain approaches and considers a priority area as one which has a significantly high percentage and number of vulnerable people, while also considering the availability and capacity of health services for priority areas.
- [Hong Kong and Singapore claim coronavirus strategy works, but the success is unstable](#)
Until recently, the two cities had managed to keep their case numbers remarkably low while avoiding the extreme lockdowns. Both fought outbreaks through aggressive testing, isolating infected people, and tracing and quarantining their contacts. In Hong Kong, the rate of new cases has already slowed. Experts in both cities believe setbacks are inevitable.
- [How do we end the shutdown; hire an army of public health workers for contact tracing?](#)
Citing the experience from San Francisco and countries around the world, public health leaders are calling for unprecedented expansions of the public health workforce to conduct massive testing and contact tracing to reduce the spread. They argue it will take a "New Deal" size effort and an army of public health workers to trace the cases and protect our population as they go eventually back to work.
- [The real tragedy of not having enough COVID-19 Tests](#)
According to Kaiser Health News, our national testing efforts remain a fraction of those being done in other countries. We have essentially been rationing this precious resource for only those with the most severe symptoms. This has limited our ability to understand the community spread of the virus and to protect our first responder workforce. But it also has limited the ability of people with mild Covid cases who are now recovering from being able to make rational decisions about whether they can volunteer to help with delivery of food or essential services.
- [Five ways the coronavirus outbreak is hitting global food industry](#)
1) Milk overproduction; 2) Crops rotting and going to waste 3) Staffing shortages 4) New patterns of food demand -- shortages and surpluses; and 5) Expiring unused stock.
- [With plastic sheets, Japan's convenience stores target social distancing](#)
Useful image of how simple plastic barriers control infection spread.

Epidemiology Highlights

- [Why healthcare workers die: analysis of 24 deaths during the outbreak of COVID-19 infection in China](#)

Of 24 deaths, 54.2% died of COVID-19, 33.3% suffered from sudden death including cardiac arrest, myocardial infarction, and other non-confirmed diseases, and 12.5% died in traffic accidents during or after work. Due to wearing protective clothing for extended periods, many health workers avoided drinking water and wore adult diapers, so some fainted from hypoxia and hypoglycemia.

- [Persistent shedding of SARS-CoV-2 in stools of infected children](#)

SARS-CoV-2 is cleared from the respiratory tract within two weeks after abatement of fever, but it remains detectable in feces for as long as 4 weeks. The prolonged viral shedding in feces suggests that the virus might be transmitted through contaminated fomites.

- [Possible fecal-oral Transmission](#)

Diarrhea is a frequent presenting symptom in patients infected with SARS-CoV-2. Increasing evidence indicates possible fecal-oral transmission. There is need for a rapid and effective modification of the screening and diagnostic algorithms.

- [India is attempting to slow spread without test kits using health care worker contact tracing](#)

India does not have enough kits to test most of its population for the new coronavirus. The country is instead relying on people power: thousands of health-care workers are fanning out across the country to trace and quarantine people who might have had contact with those with COVID-19. People are typically only tested if they develop symptoms.

Healthcare Policy Recommendations

- [How to shop safely: CDC guidelines](#)

Call-in prescriptions ahead of time and use drive-thru windows, curbside services, mail-order or other delivery services.

- [United nations inter-agency standing committee \(IASC\) humanitarian response recommendations](#)

IASC produced 8 guidelines: 1) Interim Guidance on Scaling-up COVID-19 Outbreak in Readiness and Response Operations in Camps and Camp-like Settings; 2) Interim Briefing Note Addressing Mental Health and Psychosocial Aspects of COVID-19 Outbreak; 3) Interim Recommendations for Adjusting Food Distribution Standard Operating Procedures in the Context of the COVID-19 Outbreak; 4) Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools; 5) Interim Guidance on COVID-19: Focus on Persons Deprived of their Liberty; 6) Interim Technical Note: Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) during COVID-19 Response; 7) Interim Guidance: Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak; 8) Interim Key Messages: Flexible Funding for Humanitarian Response and COVID-19.

- [Shift from a self-interest-oriented response to a shared-interest-oriented response: Korea experience](#)

Under the shared-interest oriented response, all stakeholders need to permanently or systematically depend on the networks formed among them to continuously coordinate their efforts.

- [Caring for those providing maternity care during a global pandemic](#)

Women and Birth: summary of the stresses on maternity care providers which include exposures and mental health.

- [The value of holistic palliative care and hospice services during pandemics](#)

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management: An evidence synthesis on the role and response of hospice and palliative care in epi/pandemics, to inform response to COVID-19. Hospice and palliative care services should: respond rapidly and flexibly; produce protocols; shift resources to the community; redeploy volunteers; facilitate staff camaraderie; communicate with patients/careers via technology; standardize data collection.

- [Coronavirus & Telehealth: Pros and Cons](#)

Telehealth Policies Impacting Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in face of COVID-19 are discussed.

- [The challenges of rural community pharmacies responding to the outbreak](#)

Suggestions that it may be time for current and future legislation to consider expanding the role of pharmacists in primary care for underserved populations through Collaborative Practice Agreements.

- [An emergency amendment to the National Scope of Practice for Paramedics are needed](#)

Changes to paramedic scopes of practice related to airway and ventilator management are urgently needed across rural America, where existing limited resources are challenged for the coming months. Changes to paramedic scopes of practice need to be supported through local regulatory changes, access to education and mentoring, consideration of health professional and patient safety, and ongoing monitoring of these and other emerging issues.

Practice Guidelines

- [Summary of guidelines from 5 Bronchology societies](#)
Disparate bronchoscopy guidelines are collected and harmonized in a short commentary.
- [Rheumatologists' perspective: discontinue disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs during infection](#)
Patients with COVID-19 may have features mimicking rheumatic diseases. For those with actual rheumatic diseases, until further evidence emerges, it may be cautiously recommended to continue glucocorticoids and other disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) in patients receiving them, but discontinue DMARDs during infections per standard practice.
- [Minimal contact strategy for dermatology clinical operations](#)
Use work scheduling to limit patient contacts and healthcare worker exposures.
- [Urgent considerations for the neuro-oncologic treatment of patients with gliomas](#)
An approach is presented developed by an international multi-disciplinary group to optimize the care of adults with gliomas during this pandemic. The authors recommend measures to promote strict social distancing and minimize exposures for patients, address risk and benefit of all therapeutic interventions, pro-actively develop end of life plans, educate patients and caregivers, and ensure the health of the multi-disciplinary neuro-oncology workforce.
- [Infection control in departments of radiology](#)
Multiple cases of COVID-19 transmission in radiology department have been reported. Here the authors summarize the lessons they learned and provide suggestions to improve infection control and prevention practices of healthcare workers in departments of radiology.
- [Classification system for newborn infants to guide practice parameters](#)
A rapid classification system has been proposed to aid healthcare workers in evaluating patients, determining infection control measures, and planning appropriate follow-up. The classification system has 5 mutually exclusive categories: 1) confirmed, 2) probable, 3) possible, 4) unlikely, 5) not infected. The category is decided considering results of maternal testing, clinical status of neonate at birth, and results of neonatal testing. Guidelines regarding appropriate diagnostic methods and interpretation of results for newborn infants are unclear at this time, so this system could prove to be helpful.
- [Specific precautions for pediatric microlaryngobronchoscopy](#)
With 15% of pediatric Covid positive patients being asymptomatic and significant risk of aerosolization of respiratory secretions during pediatric microlaryngobronchoscopy, recommend: limit to only urgent procedures, wear ENT specific PPE including eye protection, limit people in the room to essential staff, use laryngeal mask airways before and after procedure.
- [SARS-CoV-2 epidemic in the Dialysis Units of Piedmont and Acosta Valley, Northern Italy](#)
Special considerations need to be made for patients receiving some form of renal replacement therapy (RRT) to minimize their risk. In a preliminary study of two areas in Italy, the hospitalization rate for patients on RRT was 74.6% and the death rate was 24.6%.
- [Steps for tracheotomy in COVID-19 patients: A staff-safe method for airway management](#)
Tracheostomy in intubated COVID-19 patients requires adjunctive safeguards. A step-by-step approach named CORONA is proposed in order to recall essential recommendations during the surgical procedure.
- [Swiss consensus on thromboprophylaxis and lab monitoring for inpatients with Covid-19](#)
Based on the available literature and published recommendations from the International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis and from the Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis Research, the Working Party on Hemostasis proposes the recommendations for pharmacological thromboprophylaxis in COVID-19 patients in the acute setting.

- [Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Program: COVID-19 guidance update](#)
The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Program (SDCEP) has now modified its guidance on management of commonly presenting oral conditions for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new 'Management of Acute Dental Problems during COVID-19 Pandemic' guide is available now on the SDCEP website: <http://www.sdcep.org.uk/>.
- [Guidance for managing electromyography requests and testing during the COVID-19](#)
The authors encourage electrodiagnostic study referrals be stratified into Urgent, Non-urgent and Possibly Urgent. For each category, they provide a rationale and some examples.
- [Evacuating individuals flown to the airport who needs to be quarantined: experience of Taiwan](#)
After the lockdown of Wuhan and Hubei, the Taiwanese government planned to evacuate its citizens by means of chartered flights. A detailed evacuation workflow is described to minimize the possibility of surface environmental contamination.

Promising Drugs, Vaccines, Therapies, Clinical Trials

- [Recommendations from national regulatory agencies for ongoing cancer trials during the pandemic](#)
Lancet Onc: summary of guidance from national regulatory agencies for cancer clinical trials during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Pharmacologic treatments for Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
A literature review was performed to identify current evidence regarding major proposed treatments, repurposed or experimental, for COVID-19 and provide a summary of current clinical experience and treatment guidance for this novel epidemic coronavirus.
- [Cardiovascular risks of hydroxychloroquine in treatment and prophylaxis of COVID-19 patients](#)
Risks of hydroxychloroquine in treatment and prophylaxis of COVID-19 patients: A scientific statement from the Indian Heart Rhythm Society. This includes a brief review of cardiovascular effects, with respect to its propensity to cause QT interval prolongation and potentially lethal cardiac arrhythmia in certain patients.
- [29 New COVID-19 Trials registered today at clinicaltrials.gov](#)
Treatment trials: Fluvoxamine, Pro-thrombotic, Symptoms of People Over Age 70, Convalescent Plasma, Coronavirus Response, Efficacy and Safety of Leronlimab, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, Endoscopy Survey, Effects of Interferon Beta 1a, Efficacy and Safety of Nivolumab, Hydroxychloroquine Pre and Post Exposure, Ivermectin Adjuvant to Hydroxychloroquine, Effectiveness of Oral Chlorine Dioxide, LY3127804, Efficacy and Safety of Nitazoxanide. At time of writing, a total of 463 were active, 25 completed, and 3 posted results.

Other Science

- [The correlation between the pandemic and sedentary induced health problems](#)
The current pandemic and habits that begin now may exacerbate health problems by further increasing sedentary behaviors, which may become apparent over time. It is important to encourage physical activity, while maintaining social distancing to maintain healthy exercise behaviors.
- [Questions surrounding COVID-19 induced thrombocytopenia](#)
There is relationship between abnormal coagulation profiles and poor prognosis in patients, particularly in those with disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). There are reports of an algorithm for management of COVID-19 coagulopathy based on supportive therapy.
- [Non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases \(NAFLD\) associated with progression to severe COVID-19](#)
This preliminary study found that 44.7% (34/76) of patients with NAFLD progressed to severe compared to 6.6% (5/126) without NAFLD.
- [Loss of smell and taste in COVID-19 patients found in small US study](#)

Odds of loss of smell 10.9 times higher in COVID-19 positive patients compared to patients with influenza-like symptoms. For loss of taste, odds were 10.2 times higher for COVID-19 positive patients. Odds of sore throat 0.23 times lower for COVID-19 patients (n=59 COVID-19 positive, n=203 negative).

- [Serum Amyloid A, a biomarker for severity and disease progression](#)

As the disease progresses, SAA and CRP increase. SAA to lymphocyte ratio valuable in predicting disease severity and distinguishing mild from critically ill patients. High initial SAA correlated with poor CT imaging.

- [Little is known about disease severity in neonates](#)

From scant data: vertical transmission from maternal infection during the third trimester probably does not occur or likely it occurs very rarely. Consequences of COVID-19 infection among women during early pregnancy remain unknown. We cannot conclude if pregnancy is a risk factor for more severe disease in women with COVID-19. The presence of SARS-CoV-2 has not been documented in human milk, but information is largely lacking on the overall impact of the disease in neonates.

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