The Coronavirus Pandemic: Federal Updates, Lessons Learned and How Do We Move Forward?

Janel Doughten
Associate Director
B’nai B’rith International Center for Senior Services
Administration and CDC COVID-19 National Preparedness Plan Overview

COVID-19 Federal Updates: CDC, HUD, EPA

Lessons Learned

- When & how do you reopen your building safely & be prepared to reinstate mitigation procedures if needed?

- What practices/programming that was initiated because of the pandemic will your building continue to offer and why?

- Are there any practices that you instituted in the building as a response to the pandemic that can be helpful in other emergencies?
Presenters:
Osaremen Okolo
White House Policy Advisor for Public Health and Equity

Debra Lubar, PhD
Principal Deputy Incident Manager for CDC’s COVID-19 Response
The Administration’s Priorities
The Administration is working with Congress to secure the necessary funding to:

- Ensure there are enough treatments for Americans who need them.
- Launch a nationwide Test to Treat Initiative so Americans can rapidly access treatment, including by visiting a “one-stop” location to get a free test and free treatment pills.
- Update the framework for recommendations on preventive measures like masking to reflect the current state of the disease.
- Launch a one-stop-shop website that allows Americans to easily find public health guidance based on the COVID-19 risk in their local area and access tools to protect themselves.
- Sustain and increase American manufacturing of COVID-19 tests, so we can continue to have a robust supply of tests.

- Launch an effort to vaccinate America’s youngest children as soon as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorizes and the CDC recommends a vaccine for that age group.
- Ensure that Americans – of all ages – can get the protection of an effective vaccine.
- Increase American manufacturing capacity to reliably produce an additional 1 billion vaccine doses per year – three times the U.S. population – and accelerate research and development of a single COVID vaccine that protects against SARS-CoV-2 and all its variants, as well as previous SARS origin viruses.
- Continue vaccination outreach and education efforts and combat misinformation and disinformation.

Protect Against and Treat COVID-19
The Administration will put forth new educational efforts for the public and providers so that Americans can rapidly access treatments. The Administration will establish “One-Stop Test to Treat” locations at pharmacy-based clinics, community health centers, Long-Term Care Facilities, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities across the country. “One-stop” sites will be operational by March.
Upcoming priorities

Protect Against and Treat COVID-19

The Administration is working with Congress to secure the necessary funding to:

• Prioritize protections for immunocompromised people and take new actions to protect individuals with disabilities and older adults
• Help Americans with the long-term impacts of COVID-19
• Ensure equitable access to COVID-19 health care and public health resources
Prioritize protections for immunocompromised people and take new actions to protect individuals with disabilities and older adults

The Administration will continue to provide strong support for the immunocompromised, including providing prioritized access to treatments and preventive interventions – pending additional funding from Congress – as well as ensuring access to boosters. The Administration will also increase equitable access to testing and COVID-19 mitigation resources for people with disabilities and older adults and engage industry to accelerate research and development of accessible self-tests. Securing sufficient preventive treatments for people who are immunocompromised will require additional funding from Congress.
Prepare for New Variants

The Administration is working with Congress to secure the necessary funding to:

- Leverage a proven COVID-19 Surge Response Playbook
- Add at-home tests, antiviral pills, and masks for the general population to America’s stockpile for the first time
- The U.S. government has established a permanent logistics and operational hub at HHS to ensure accelerated development, production, and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

- Improve our data collection, sequencing, and wastewater surveillance capabilities to immediately identify and detect new and emerging variants; and strengthen pandemic preparedness.
- Leverage a COVID-19 Variant Playbook to determine the impact of a new variant on our vaccines, treatments, and tests, and shore up and update our tools, if needed.
- Utilize new FDA processes to expedite regulatory review of variant-specific versions of vaccines and treatments, so Americans can get them quickly if needed.
CDC Priorities
Why refocus efforts for monitoring COVID-19 in communities?

- Shift from eliminating SARS-CoV-2 transmission towards more relevant metrics given current levels of population immunity and tools available

- Current high levels of population immunity reduce risk of severe outcomes
  - High rates of vaccination in population as a whole
  - Availability of boosters, and booster coverage among populations at high risk
  - In unvaccinated, high rates of infection-induced protection

- Breadth of tools available for public health and clinical care
  - Broad access to vaccines, therapeutics, testing

- Community measures should focus on minimizing the impact of severe COVID-19 illness on health and society
  - Preventing medically significant illness
  - Minimizing burden on the healthcare system
  - Protecting the most vulnerable through vaccines, therapeutics, and COVID-19 prevention
First released in September 2020

- Relied on two metrics to define community transmission: Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days, and percentage of Nucleic Acid Amplification Test results that are positive during the past 7 days
- Used by CDC to inform setting-specific guidance and layered prevention strategies (e.g., screening testing in schools, masking, etc.)
- Public health practitioners, schools, businesses, and community organizations also rely on these metrics to inform decisions about prevention measures
COVID-19 Surges of Different Variants Needed Different Monitoring Metrics
Updated Community Level and Indicators
(Living with the virus)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Cases (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 200</td>
<td>New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)</td>
<td>&lt;10.0</td>
<td>10.0-19.9</td>
<td>≥20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)</td>
<td>&lt;10.0%</td>
<td>10.0-14.9%</td>
<td>≥15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 or more</td>
<td>New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>&lt;10.0</td>
<td>≥10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>&lt;10.0%</td>
<td>≥10.0%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the inpatient beds and new admissions indicators, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.
Framework for Monitoring and Prevention

**Community Metrics**

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage
- Overall coverage of people up to date
- Coverage among people at increased risk of severe illness and health equity

COVID-19 Community Indicators
- Healthcare strain
- Hospital admissions of severely ill patients
- New cases (leading indicator)

Local Metrics and Information
- Wastewater surveillance
- Circulating novel variants of concern
- Local high-risk congregate settings
- Upcoming large events
- Health equity

**Community Actions**

Vaccine Activities
- Outreach
- Campaigns
- Distribution
- Equity

Prevention Measures
- Masking
- Testing
- Other individual prevention behaviors
- Other community-level prevention strategies

Local Decisions

Higher vaccination coverage likely to result in lower community levels

Local vaccine activities and recommended prevention measures for different community levels inform local decisions

Local metrics and information provide context to interpret community level
### Updated Community Level and Indicators

#### Individual prevention behaviors and community-level public health strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 community level</th>
<th>Individual- and household-level preventive behaviors</th>
<th>Community-level preventive strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOW</strong></td>
<td>Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters</td>
<td>Plan for distribution and administration of vaccines to achieve high community coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain ventilation</td>
<td>Maintain improved ventilation for public indoor spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mask based on individual preference, informed by individual risk</td>
<td>For people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow recommendations for isolation and quarantine</td>
<td>- Increase access to testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek testing when exposed or symptomatic: Isolate promptly if symptomatic or infected</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease:</td>
<td>- Have a plan for rapid testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Know if a candidate for antivirals/monoclonals</td>
<td>- May choose to mask indoors in public when indoors with them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Individual prevention behaviors and community-level public health strategies (cont.)

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<th>Community-level preventive strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td>People who are immunocompromised or at high risk</td>
<td>Protect persons most at risk for severe illness or death by identifying populations at high risk and expanding access to vaccination, testing, treatments, support services, and messaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- May choose to mask indoors in public when indoors with them</td>
<td>- Consider implementing screening testing in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People with household/social contact with individuals who are immunocompromised or at high risk may consider self-testing to detect infection before contact and may choose to mask when indoors with them</td>
<td>- Enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People who are immunocompromised or at high risk may consider using masks or respirators that provide greater protection to the wearer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People who are immunocompromised or at high risk may choose to avoid indoor public settings where they may be exposed for non-essential activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>Wear a mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools)</td>
<td>Implement universal indoor masking in settings that serve populations at high risk for severe disease (e.g., older adults)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People who are immunocompromised or at high risk</td>
<td>Implement healthcare surge support as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>may consider using masks or respirators that provide greater protection to the wearer</td>
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Federal Website Resources

White House National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan
https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/

HUD Multifamily Housing COVID-19 Guidance
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/Multifamily_Housing_COVID-19_Guidance

EPA Clear Air in Buildings Challenge
https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/clean-air-buildings-challenge

Health Resources & Services Administration
COVID-19 Community Levels

Considerations for Owners and Operators of Multifamily Housing Including Populations at Increased Risk for Complications from COVID-19

COVID-19 Information for Specific Groups of People

Find Free Masks N95
Lessons Learned

When & how do you reopen your building safely & be prepared to reinstate mitigation procedures if needed?

What practices/programming that was initiated because of the pandemic will your building continue to offer and why?
COVID-19 Programming Opportunities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Emoji</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You’re a natural leader!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanks for being so easy to talk to!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are a gem!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m so glad we met!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have the best laugh!</td>
<td>😂</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m inspired by you!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’re all that and a super-size bag of chips!</td>
<td>🍟</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You’ve Been “Flocked” Door Decorating

Flock people’s doors (surprise decorating someone else’s door with flamingo accessories). We had 17 people sign up. They got a Flamingo cup from Dollar Tree for participating. At the end of the week, we had 3 winners with a prize drawing.

**Program Details:**
Chose a door to decorate with flamingo magnets, and a baggy with “You’ve been flocked” and gives the instructions of what to do – decorate someone else’s door.

**Materials:** Flamingo magnets, leis, pink ribbon curls, anything to go along with the theme
Activities that can be virtual or small groups that are socially distanced or outside

• Virtual exercise classes or small group class
• Virtual craft class or small group class
• Bingo (outside, small groups, conference call, zoom)
• Scavenger hunt using magazines or items in your apartment
• Door dancing
• Door decorating contest
• Virtual classes
• Virtual discussion group
• Concerts
Resources

Engaged The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults
https://www.engagingolderadults.org/
Searchable HUB for programming
https://www.engagingolderadults.org/hub
Senior Planet
https://seniorplanet.org/
Share your ideas...

Can any of these programs be continued to reach out to the socially isolated residents?
Are there any practices that you instituted in the building as a response to the pandemic that can be helpful in other emergencies?