Welcome and Scene Setter

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Health System COVID-19
Preparedness and Response

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COVID-19:
Vulnerable Populations

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Vulnerable/Health Disparity Populations in the United States

• Racial and ethnic minorities
• Persons with low income
• Women
• Children
• Older adults
• Persons with chronic medical and mental health conditions

• Homeless persons
• Immigrants, refugees and displaced persons
• Individuals with disabilities
• Persons with low literacy and numeracy
• Institutionalized persons

Sources:
Disparities in COVID-19 Infections and Deaths

The coronavirus has ravaged all of New York City, closing schools, emptying streets and turning stadiums into makeshift hospitals. And data made public by city health officials on Wednesday suggests it is hitting low-income neighborhoods the hardest.

The Coronovirus Doesn't Discriminate, But U.S. Health Care Showing Familiar Biases

No, the coronavirus is not an "equalizer." Black people are being infected and dying at higher rates, here's what Milwaukee is doing about it — and why governments need to start releasing data on the race of COVID-19 patients.
Challenges Magnified During the COVID-19 Outbreak

- Lack of basic resources (e.g., food, water, shelter, transportation)
- Housing environment/conditions
- Lack of access to healthcare services
- Potential for lost wages and/or loss of employment
- Lack of access to telephone and internet services
- Potential for an increase in domestic violence/abuse
- Institutional discrimination and resulting mistrust
Not Everybody Can Work from Home…
Social Distancing Is a Privilege

• “Less than one in five black workers and roughly one in six Hispanic workers are able to work from home.”

• “Only 9.2 percent of workers in the lowest quartile of the wage distribution can telework, compared with 61.5 percent of workers in the highest quartile.”

• “If you touch people for a living, in elder care or child care, if you cut or fix their hair, if you clean their spaces or cook their food, if you drive their cars or build their houses, you can’t do that from home.”

Sources:
A Game Plan to Help the Most Vulnerable

• Expand housing
• Provide food
• Support education
• Protect workers
• Expand healthcare access
• Partner with trusted members of vulnerable communities

Resources

COVID-19 Resources Page

https://www.healthequityhub.com/covid19-resources
Resource Guide Hyperlink
Public Health Response

April 8, 2020

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Adaptive Response

Loosen or Tighten Physical Distancing according to levels of:

- Virus transmission
- Healthcare preparedness
- Public health capacity

U.S. IS HERE

Cases Over Time

Italy, NYC

Cases Over Time

Singapore, China outside of Hubei
Public Health Capacity

1. Reduce risk of infection in nursing homes, assisted living, senior housing
2. Assure access via Call Center
3. Test people with symptoms
4. Isolate people with coronavirus infection*
5. Find their contacts and quarantine them*

*May require alternate housing, food delivery, and other supports
Effective Public Health Communication

1. Timely
2. Accurate
3. Credible
4. Express empathy
5. Promote action
6. Show respect

https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/
Questions