

COVID-19: Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Opportunities for Public Health Practice



The pandemic declaration of widespread transmission of COVID-19 presents unique challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities for public health practice in the United States and globally. *Public Health Reports (PHR)*, a peer-reviewed journal of public health research and practice, is calling for papers focused on the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The broad range of COVID-19–related topics that will be considered for publication includes

- impact of public health practices implemented by US federal, state, tribal, local, or territorial public health organizations;
- effectiveness of US public health policies and practices, compared with those of other nations;
- surveillance methods used for detecting, characterizing, and monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic;
- testing by public health and private laboratories;
- use of electronic health record data from clinical settings that can help guide public health practice;
- infectious disease modeling on which to base public health practice;
- policy or legal approaches that have a direct impact on health services, health behaviors, or population health;
- disparities in testing, treatment, and survival outcomes for racial or ethnic minorities and other populations at risk;
- partnerships with traditional and nontraditional public health partners;
- impact of COVID-19 on academic public health or the public health workforce;
- use and effectiveness of screening and response protocols;
- contact tracing, including use of digital tools;
- impact on persons in non–health care congregate or custodial settings (eg, retirement or independent living communities, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, educational institutions, cruise ships, or military housing);
- impact on persons in specific types of health care facilities (eg, hospitals, clinics, or long-term–care facilities);
- public health impacts of economic changes caused by the pandemic response;
- impact of social or economic factors on transmission;
- health communication regarding information and misinformation about COVID-19 in the digital age;
- impact on persons experiencing mental or emotional health problems (eg, increased stress or anxiety, feelings of loneliness, or suicide ideation or attempts during shelter-in-place mandates);
- ethics dilemmas and human rights challenges in COVID-19–related clinical decisions (eg, use of ventilators) or public health decisions (eg, social distancing and personal liberty, release of patients' demographic information, and personal privacy concerns);
- unintended health consequences attributable to the pandemic;
- vaccination, including effectiveness, uptake, attitudes/perceptions/knowledge, hesitancy, disparities, and policies; and
- long COVID-19 (health consequences present four or more weeks after infection), including incidence, risk and protective factors (such as sociodemographic and vaccination status), physical and mental health burden, epidemiology and surveillance (including in diverse populations), health economics, and care access.

This announcement is an open call for papers. Submission acceptance will be on a rolling basis and accepted manuscripts will be fast-tracked for publication. All submissions will undergo *PHR* peer review. For more details regarding specific article types and corresponding review criteria, see *PHR*'s [Instructions to Contributors](#). Interested authors may send queries about potential articles to Dr. Hazel D. Dean, *PHR* Editor-in-Chief, at HDean@cdc.gov. For further information, contact Dr. Dean or the Managing Editor, Dr. Andrey Kuzmichev, at Andrey.Kuzmichev@hhs.gov.

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