

DICON COVID-19 Weekly Digest 4/20/2020

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What's New on DICON COVID Resources?

[DICON COVID-19 FAQ: Anosmia](#)

[DICON COVID-19 Newsletters: COVID 19 Testing](#)

Duke Updates:

- [PPE infographic](#)
- [Masking in common areas](#)
- [Wearing and storing your mask](#)
- [Keeping you and your team members safe](#)
- [DUH COVID-19 testing recommendations](#)

Interesting Updates

These are up-to-date values for Rt, a key measure of how fast the virus is growing <https://rt.live/>

Notable articles related to SARS-COV-2 Epidemiology, Transmission and Infection Prevention:

NEJM:

- [Video on appropriate NP swab technique](#)
- [Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1](#)
- [Letter to the editor on universal screening for women admitted to L&D](#)

MMWR:

- [Transmission to healthcare workers](#)
- [Summary of cases among healthcare workers](#)

JAMA:

- [COVID-19—Looking Beyond Tomorrow for Health Care and Society](#) (Editorial)
- [Symptom Screening at Illness Onset of Health Care Personnel With SARS-CoV-2 Infection in King County, Washington](#)
- [The Promise and Peril of Antibody Testing for COVID-19](#)
- **Turbulent gas clouds** questions the current classification of respiratory infections being spread by large vs small droplets, or droplets vs aerosol. The author points out that the actual physics of droplets in coughs or sneezes is much more complicated. She points out that exhalations, sneezes, and coughs are primarily made of a multiphase turbulent gas (a puff) cloud that entrains ambient air and traps and carries within it, clusters of droplets with a continuum of droplet sizes. These “turbulent gas clouds” can travel up to 8 meters and the moisture content can prevent evaporation of even very small droplets. The relevance for COVID-19 is not known but the article raises questions concerning personal protection

Annals of Internal Medicine:

- [Narrative review of diagnostic testing](#)
- [Article about utility and content of electronic consultations](#)

CID:

- [The Characteristics of Household Transmission of COVID-19](#)

ICHE:

- [COVID-19: Protecting Healthcare Workers is a Priority](#)
- [Positive RT-PCR results among discharged patients in China](#)
- [Commentary from Mike Stevens et al on the impact of COVID on traditional Infection Prevention activities](#)

Regulatory updates:

- CMS has new [guidance for nursing homes](#)- now data reporting is required
- CMS has also issued guidance for [healthcare systems](#) in communities that are in phase I reopening
- IDSA/HIVMA statement on requirements to [ease distancing restrictions](#)
- The federal government issued guidelines for lifting current distancing and other restrictions. A copy of the [slide presentation](#) can be found at this link
- FDA Authorized use of a new [type of swab](#)
- [COVID-NET](#) interactive dashboard has some new features
- [Public health England on re-using PPE during shortage](#)
- DHHS [authorized pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests](#), including serology
- New [CMS guidance on LTC transfer](#)
- The [TRAIN Course Catalog](#) has many offerings including prior COCA calls etc.
- [CDC Updated Infection Prevention Guidance changes include:](#)
 - To address asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, implement source control for everyone entering a healthcare facility (e.g., healthcare personnel, patients, visitors), regardless of symptoms
 - This action is recommended to help prevent transmission from infected individuals who may or may not have symptoms of COVID-19
 - Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE because their capability to protect healthcare personnel (HCP) is unknown. Facemasks, if available, should be reserved for HCP
 - For visitors and patients, a cloth face covering may be appropriate. If a visitor or patient arrives to the healthcare facility without a cloth face covering, a facemask may be used for source control if supplies are available
 - Actively screen everyone for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before they enter the healthcare facility
 - As community transmission intensifies within a region, healthcare facilities could consider foregoing contact tracing for exposures in a healthcare setting in favor of universal source control for HCP and screening for fever and symptoms before every shift
 - Added links to updated guidance for:
 - [Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and other Equipment](#)

- [Interim Guidance for Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19](#)
- [Interim Guidance on Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19](#)
- [Strategies to Mitigate Staffing Shortages](#)

News Updates:

- Durham updated its [stay at home order](#) last weekend it requires face covering and provides clarifications for farmers markets and realtors
- Rutgers is working on an [at-home saliva test](#) using the same preservative technology as home DNA companies use
- Wuhan [updated death estimates](#) based on ability to capture information from additional sources
- [Op-Ed from Duke Palliative Care MD](#) in the LA Times