



COVID-19

research update

3/26/2020

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio is collecting the latest research so that Ohio policymakers and other stakeholders can make informed decisions on the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic. HPIO has also created a [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) resource page](#) to serve as a "one-stop-shop" for links to the Ohio Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other sources of frequently updated, reputable information.

WHO publishes updated guidance for COVID-19 testing

The World Health Organization recently released [new guidance for COVID-19 testing](#) (World Health Organization, March 22, 2020) recommending prioritizing available testing capacity for vulnerable populations and healthcare workers. Additional priorities for testing include the first suspected cases at facilities at high risk for rapid transmission such as "...long-term living facilities, prisons, [and] hospitals." WHO also specifies indicators for tracking testing.

Given the limited supply of tests in the United States overall and in Ohio, this guidance can be used to set criteria for prioritizing which Ohioans get access to tests. The tracking indicators may also be useful for establishing a system for tracking tests conducted in Ohio.

New York City hospital chief provides insights on hospital preparedness

The Journal of the American Medical Association [published an interview](#) (JAMA, March 23, 2020) with Michelle N. Gong, MD, Chief of Critical Care at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx to get perspective on the pandemic in New York City. Among the information that can be useful for Ohio are that:

- Ohio hospital systems should prepare for longer intensive care stays for patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) caused by COVID-19 relative to other causes of ARDS
- More research is needed around treatment for COVID-19; Ohio hospitals can contribute to building this research base
- Most patients who recover in New York are discharging to home, but some need recovery support. Facilitating arrangements between New York hospitals and recovery facilities has been problematic. This lesson learned should be considered in Ohio as people begin to recover.

Model confirms social distancing, quarantining effective in slowing spread of COVID-19

[A study](#) (The Lancet Infectious Diseases, March 23, 2020) adapting an influenza simulation model found that implementing the combined intervention of quarantining infected individuals and their family members, workplace distancing and school closure once community transmission has been detected could substantially reduce the number of COVID-19 infections. The study also found that quarantine and workplace distancing should be prioritized over school closure because at the early stage in community COVID-19 exposure, symptomatic children have higher withdrawal rates from school than do symptomatic adults from work.