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# LOUISIANA COVID-19 HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE

**Charge:**

To provide recommendations relative to health inequities, which are affecting communities, that are most impacted by the coronavirus. The task force will examine opportunities which provide greater access to high quality medical care and improve health outcomes.

**Goals/Outcomes:**

- Provide reliable and data driven information on COVID-19 safety and prevention;
- Provide the medical community with best practices and protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities; and
- Ensure testing availability and ease of access for all communities.

**Timeline:**

Louisiana’s COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force will begin its work immediately and continue as needed. Its actions and research will ultimately result in improved health equity in Louisiana, serve as a foundation and resource for addressing healthcare disparities in vulnerable populations, and contribute to the progression and improvement of Louisiana’s healthcare rankings. To measure progress a statewide Dashboard on Health Equity will be created.

**PRIORITIES**

<b>PRIORITIES</b>	<b>TASK FORCE MEMBERS &amp; SUBCOMMITTEES</b>	<b>DELIVERABLES</b>
COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable and At-Risk Communities	Mary Meg Brown, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC –Co-Chair Raynando Banks, MD- Co-Chair Gary Wiltz, MD Rebekah E. Gee, MD, MPH Rani Whitfield, M.D. Senator Regina Barrow Tiffany J. Netters, MPA, PMP Carol Smith Terry Davis, Ph.D.	Review State-wide Testing Plan for COVID-19 and antibody testing and quarantine. Review statewide protocols for testing, geomapping of testing, barriers to testing, location of testing sites, COVID-19 mobile testing efforts, and local government’s role in testing, contact tracing efforts. A comprehensive recommendation to facilitate COVID-19 testing for vulnerable and at-risk communities (symptomatic and asymptomatic) will be produced.  <b>SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS</b>
COVID-19 Communication and Messaging	Thomas LaVeist, Ph.D. – Lead Corey Hebert, MD – Co-Chair Dereck J. Rovaris, PhD. Keith Ferdinand, M.D.	Develop a Health Equity Task Force website with a social media platform inclusive of COVID-19 safety and prevention, cultural relevant messaging, de-stigmatization, misperceptions, etc. utilizing <i>The Skin You’re In</i> platform as a template. Incorporate measures to reach rural communities and the elderly with limited or no access to broadband. Include street campaign strategies and incorporate measures such as geofencing to reach our youth.  <b>SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS</b>
COVID-19 Data and Analysis	Ziad Ashkar, MD, MPH – Co-Chair Simone Rambotti, PhD – Co-Chair Peter Katzmarzyk, PhD	A comprehensive statewide report on COVID-19 data based on age, gender, and race with geospatial analysis of mortality will be developed.

	Jacqueline Harris, PhD Daniel Sarpong, Ph.D.	Obtain COVID 19 data to include deaths by age/race/zip codes; hospitalizations by age and race; cases and deaths in nursing homes and prisons by age and race; # of people tested by age and race; obesity data; cross tabulation of data with co-morbidities; Various nationalities, including Latino community numbers, will be included.  <b>SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS</b>
COVID-19 Health Equity Dashboard	Demetrius Porche, DNS, PhD, APRN, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN – Co-Chair Judy Reese Morse – Co-Chair Earl Benjamin-Robinson, Dr.H.Sc. Peter Fos, Ph.D. Kathleen Kennedy, Pharm.D.	Develop a Louisiana Health Equity Dashboard. Explore Health Equity Dashboards in other states to use as a guide.  <b>INTERMEDIATE GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 60 DAYS</b>
COVID-19 in Special Populations – LA Prisons	Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW – Co-Chair Michael McClanahan – Co-Chair Frederick L. Thomas, MSCJ Erica Rogers, RN Faye Grimsley, Ph.D, CIH, MSPH Connie Arnold, Ph.D.	Explore the impact of COVID-19 on special populations, specifically Louisiana’s prison population (examining the # of positive cases, deaths, age, gender, race, geographic location). A comprehensive plan to address safety and prevention of COVID-19 in Louisiana’s prison population will be developed.  <b>SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS</b>
COVID-19 in Special Populations- Nursing Home residents	Alicia Bates, PhD, NP-C, CDE – Co-Chair Jeanine S. Thomas, Ph.D, MSN, RN – Co-Chair Leanne Fowler, DNP, MBA, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CNE Kathleen Tate, EdD, MSN, MBA Cindy, Schneider, MSN, RN Lisa VanHoose, PT, PhD, MPH	Explore the impact of COVID-19 on special populations, specifically Louisiana’s nursing home population (examining the # of positive cases, deaths, age, gender, race, geographic location). A comprehensive plan to address safety and prevention of COVID-19 in nursing home residents will be developed.  <b>SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS</b>
COVID-19 Policy and Regulatory Affairs	Eric van Holm, Ph.D. – Co-Chair Damien Ejigiri – Co-Chair Deleso A. Alford J.D., L.L.M.	This committee will recommend policies and regulations to state legislature to minimize inequitable distribution of healthcare services as it relates to discrimination, access to care, quality of care and other fundamental drivers of health disparities.

	<p>Tavell L. Kindall, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC  Alma C. Stewart, RN, MS  Christopher J. Tyson, J.D.  Representative Dustin Miller</p>	<p><b>INTERMEDIATE GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 60 DAYS</b></p>
<p>COVID-19 Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement</p>	<p>Raymond Jetson - Co-Chair  Margarita Echeverri, Ph.D. – Co-Chair  Theron Jackson  Rhoda Reddix, Ph.D.  Orlando McMeans, Ph.D.  Tina Granger, MSW, LMSW  Catherine G. Haywood, BSW, CHW  Christian J. Engle  Rudy Macklin, BS  Tiffany J. Netters, MPA, PMP  Frederick L. Thomas, MSCJ  Erica Rogers, RN</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive guide for best practices, strategies, and resources to address COVID-19 utilizing community and faith-based organizations as it relates to isolation, grieving, and COVID-19 survivorship inclusive of older adults. This subcommittee will also identify platforms to increase community engagement and outreach for COVID-19.</p> <p><b>SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS</b></p>
<p>COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Healthcare</p>	<p>Rebekah Gee, M.D. – Co-Chair  Robert Maupin, MD – Co-Chair  Kristi Anderson, Ph.D.  Amy Lesen, Ph.D  Takeisha Davis, M.D.  Amanda Dumas, MD, MSc, FAAP  Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH, FACP</p>	<p>Review <i>Crisis of Care Standards for Louisiana</i> and make recommendations for modification or updates. Review provider bias influence on health outcomes. Explore medical mistrust among African Americans. Provide a comprehensive inventory of best practices, evidenced-based solutions that address racial disparities in healthcare for Louisiana.</p> <p><b>INTERMEDIATE GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 60 DAYS</b></p>