

Healthcare Task Force
Action Item Recommendations
May 5, 2020

Aggregated Recommendation Discussed During Two Task Force Meetings

I. Testing

- a. The state must increase the bandwidth of our testing systems. This includes the speed of receiving results.
 - i. in the time that patients wait for results, they could potentially spread the virus to other people in the community.
- b. The task force recommends researching the steps other states are taking to return to work in order to implement a set a best practices in order to have a standardized approach across the state.
- c. Testing should be done regularly in areas at risk to become virus hotspots to limit the spread of the virus.
 - i. Nursing homes
 1. Staff
 2. Residents
 3. Visitors—if allowed
 - ii. Hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers
 1. Staff
 2. Residents
 3. Visitors—if allowed
 - iii. Community living centers— group homes, apartment complexes, public housing.
- d. The Louisiana Department of Health should issue guidelines and information on antibody testing.
 - i. The effectiveness of the test
 - ii. The difference between a coronavirus test, antibody and antigen testing

II. Contact Tracing

- a. Implement a statewide, streamlined contact tracing infrastructure.
 - i. Tracing infrastructure should be established and implemented as soon as possible to prevent future peaks.
- b. To begin an effective contact tracing system, Louisiana will need at least 700 tracers.
 - i. The state can utilize displaced workers and recent college graduates to serve as contact tracers.
- c. The contact tracing infrastructure should include contingency plans for low-income individuals without access to telephones.

III. Healthcare

- a. State leaders, agencies and organizations should continue to emphasize the importance of continuing regular care.
- b. Healthcare providers should continue mitigation measures to prevent the further spread of the virus.

IV. Mental and Behavioral Health

- a. Louisiana will need a robust behavioral healthcare infrastructure to continue to provide care for existing patients, as well as an influx of patients due to COVID-19.
- b. Discuss the prioritization of mental and behavioral health in upcoming federal and state legislation.
- c. Invest in workforce development programs to provide mental and behavioral healthcare for workers.
 - i. The state and employers need to plan and prepare for an influx of healthcare workers, first responders and essential employees requiring care as the pandemic continues.

V. Emergency Preparedness

- a. Healthcare facilities, businesses, families and government systems need to begin preparing for the advent of hurricane season and the potential damage it can bring to communities across the state.

- b. Areas of concern include:
 - i. The evacuation of hospitals in the southern portion of Louisiana
 - ii. Sheltering of evacuees
 - iii. Shortage of volunteers and resources
- c. Hospitals should be directed to create protocol in case of evacuation.
 - i. It is recommended to begin establishing potential hospitals and shelters to be used in case of evacuation.
- d. Municipalities should establish new evacuation protocol.
 - i. Residents that require transportation can no longer maximize the public transit system due to physical distancing efforts.
 - ii. Shelters will require more space to prevent the spread of the virus in the shelter community.
 - 1. A majority of COVID-19 cases are not in hospitals or facilities receiving care—they are isolating at home. When these individuals evacuate and seek shelter, there is a risk of spreading the virus to those around them.

VI. Reopening

- a. Prevalence studies should be conducted to accurately track infection rates over time.

Additional Recommended Action Items

- I. Contact Tracing Infrastructure
 - a. Private sector support
- II. Prevalence and Surveillance Studies
- III. Sharing disease specific clinical algorithms to direct treatment path for cancer patients
- IV. Best practice approaches
 - a. Reopening
 - b. Industry Standards
 - c. Mental and behavioral health
 - d. First Responders
- V. Resource distribution
 - a. Determining vulnerable groups
- VI. VA Facility Support
- VII. Transitioning to “new normal” for healthcare workers
- VIII. Resident Education
 - a. Coronavirus facts
 - b. Testing
 - c. Stigmas
- IX. MGMA Guidelines
 - a. Similar structure needed for ASCs
- X. Defining vulnerable populations
 - a. Racial disparities
 - b. Determining age for elderly population