Building Up Communities & Breaking the COVID-19 Divide
June 2020
Who We Are

Healthcare Ready focuses on health preparedness and response, serving as a linkage point for the health sector and government partners at the federal, state, and local governments. Our goal is to facilitate planning and response coordination that improves our ability to respond to threats that disrupt patient access to healthcare during crises.
What We Do to Help Patients, Families, and Communities

What we do to help

+ **Help ensure deliveries** of critically needed healthcare supplies.

+ **Coordinate donations** and resources between public and private sector and direct them to areas of greatest need.

+ **Provide access** to needed contacts between sectors.

+ **Build relationships** in advance of events.

+ **Connect patients** to healthcare facilities and supplies during emergencies.

+ **Serve as a trusted information-sharing forum** before and after emergencies.
Moving Forward in COVID-19: Areas of Focus

Support
- Support communities of color
- Extend partnerships beyond silos

Enhanced Coordination
- Enhanced supply chain coordination
- Emphasis on individuals with chronic diseases
- Continue to monitor outstanding needs for COVID-19 survivors

Coordinated Response
- Need for continued cross-sector coordination

Emphasis on Long-Term
- Re-opening considerations
- Dual- or multiple disasters
Health Disaster Preparedness and Response
Current Trends

Federal response posture is quickly evolving
- More “response forward” stance
- Aggressive private sector engagement, from different vantage points, complicates information-sharing
- Reorganizations of DHS and HHS

Adjusting to the “new normal” disaster cycle
- Little downtime, and no slow season
- Recovery bleeding into response gives little time to plan or prepare
- Broad range of events
  - More extreme events – natural, man-made, disease outbreak

 Communities facing concurrent emergencies
- Resources are constrained almost across the board
- Coordination fatigue has set in
- Responders are almost always personally impacted by one or multiple events to which they’re responding
Disparities in Preparedness
When stratified by race,

- 28% of whites were most concerned that a natural disaster would impact their community.

- 24% of blacks were most concerned that an outbreak of an exotic disease would impact their community.

- 19% of Hispanics were most concerned that a natural disaster would impact their community.

- 23% of other were most concerned that a natural disaster would impact their community.
If you had to evacuate your home with no medications or medical supplies, would you know what prescriptions you take, the doctor who prescribed them, and the dose?

When stratified by race,

- **42%** of whites, **34%** of blacks, **25%** of Hispanics, and **23%** of other can list all information related to their medications or medical supplies.

- **2%** of whites, **5%** of blacks, **4%** of Hispanics, and **4%** of other say that they could not list any information.

Prescription Knowledge by Race

![Bar chart showing prescription knowledge by race.](chart.png)
How likely, if at all, are you to take the following preparedness actions in the future?

When stratified by race, we see that Blacks were least likely to keep a bag packed with emergency supplies (22%), a decrease of 4% since 2019.

Whites and Hispanics were slightly more likely to keep a bag packed with emergency supplies in 2020 compared to 2019. While other saw an increase of 11% from 2019 to 2020.
COVID-19 Disparities
Disasters don’t create inequities and vulnerabilities, they expose them.

The COVID-19 pandemic has left few communities untouched. Why then, does it seem that certain communities are dying at significantly higher rates?

- Disparities Exposed by Disasters
- Exposure Increased
- Medical Fragility Increased
- Mis-information
- Fear & Uncertainty
Why are Black and Latinx communities especially vulnerable to COVID-19?

Intersection of social vulnerability and medical fragility
CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

ASTHMA
Black people suffer from the highest rate of asthma among racial/ethnic groups, with 9.6% of Black adults living with asthma compared to 8.2% of whites and 6% of Hispanics.²

9.6% Black  6% Latinx

HYPERTENSION
Black people are 50% more likely to have high blood pressure than white people.³ Latinx adults are less likely to have high blood pressure than whites.⁴

50% Black

DIABETES
Black adults are 60% more likely than whites to have been diagnosed with diabetes.⁵ Latinx adults are 70% more likely to have diabetes than whites.⁶

60% Black  70% Latinx

MULTI-GENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLDS
Elderly people are at a greater risk of contracting the virus in a multi-generational home. About half of all multi-generational households (having two or more adult generations in a single household) are Black or Latinx.⁷

HEALTHCARE ACCESS
Compared to whites, Blacks are twice as likely, and Latinx people are four times more likely, to lack health insurance.⁸

Predominantly Black communities are 67% more likely to experience a shortage of primary care physicians.⁹
Resources and Technical Assistance

- Technical resources and trainings
  - Faith-based leaders
  - Civil rights organizations
  - Elected officials
  - End-stage renal disease coalitions
  - Cancer/oncology patient groups
  - Diabetes coalitions

- Engagements
  - COVID-19 Community Listening Session
  - COVID Communications: How To Talk With Your Communities During Pandemic
  - Personal Protection Measures
  - COVID-19 Public Health Policy
Resources and Technical Assistance

**PROTEST.**
**STAY SAFE.**

Protect yourself from COVID-19 when you return home.

- **Try to isolate and quarantine when you’re home.**
  - If you feel safe doing so, let your household know where you’ve been, and isolate in another part of the house for 14 days AFTER your last protest.

- **Wash your clothes and shoes with you and in your isolated space.**
  - Wash your clothes and shoes with you and in your isolated space. Do not move them to another part of the house.

**PROTEST.**
**STAY SAFE.**

Protect yourself from COVID-19 while you are protesting.

- **Wear a mask (and bring spares).**
  - Try to wear your mask at all times, even when you are chanting. Bring clean spares for yourself in case you are hurt or if your mask becomes torn, contaminated, or sprayed. Bring a spare for a fellow protester.

- **Bring water, wipes and a bandana if you can.**
  - Try to clean your hands AND your phone frequently if you can to avoid bringing germs to your nose, mouth, and eyes. Use the bandana to protect yourself if you are gassed, and water to rinse your eyes.

- **Put your medical information on your phone.**
  - If you are injured, paramedics will be able to access emergency medical information even if your phone is locked. If you have health issues, consider staying in spaces that are less crowded with police or protesters.

https://healthcareready.org/covid19
www.HealthcareReady.org

Response-related questions or assistance: Alerts@HealthcareReady.org

General outreach to Healthcare Ready: ContactUs@HealthcareReady.org

Hotline: 1-866-247-2694


Sign up for Healthcare Ready’s regular Situation Report:
http://www.healthcareready.org/contact-us

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