DFW-APIC Government Affairs Committee
May-June 2020

APIC Public Policy and E-News Highlights (2019-2020)

http://cqrcengage.com/apic/home
http://apic.org/Member-Services/Publications/E-News

5/20/20	**Comprehensive Database of Peer-reviewed COVID Articles** Curated by former *AJIC* editor Elaine Larson and sponsored by Ovid, this website includes all English-language articles on COVID-19 that have been published in peer-reviewed journals since January 2020. **Explore this article database**.
5/27/20	**CDC Updates COVID-19 Guidance for Nursing Homes** To give nursing homes a more robust strategy to protect residents and staff, CDC has updated its infection prevention guidance for long-term care settings to include tiered recommendations to address nursing homes in different phases of COVID-19 response. **Learn more about the updated guidance**.
5/27/20	**New! Factsheet on Staying Safe While Communities Reopen** APIC's latest factsheet breaks down how to stay safe from COVID-19 even as communities begin to reopen, including basics to keep in mind while in public or at work. **Read more**.
6/2/20	Call for Speakers: The Annual Conference Committee invites you to **submit a proposal** for the APIC 2021 Annual Conference scheduled for June 28–30 in Austin, TX. Next year's annual conference will provide an outstanding mix of quality education to showcase new ideas and evidence-based practices.
6/3/20	**OSHA Updates Enforcement Response Plan for COVID-19** As workplaces in many parts of the country reopen, OSHA has revised its **interim compliance enforcement plan**. This guidance is time-limited to the COVID-19 public health emergency. **Read more**.
6/3/20	**Corrections to NHSN SSI Surveillance Documents** The CDC has made several corrections to the 2020 NHSN operative procedure and medical code documents. Please note that corrections apply to those procedures reported with a date of January 1, 2020 or later. The **corrected procedure code documents** have been posted to the NHSN SSI webpage in the Supporting Materials section.
6/3/20	**CMS Enhances Enforcement of IPC in Nursing Homes** CMS issued a memo outlining new steps to improve infection prevention and control in nursing homes. The new plan will include reduced funding to states that have not completed focused infection control inspections in their nursing home. It also includes penalties to nursing homes with infection control deficiencies ranging from directed plans of correction to monetary penalties. **Read the CMS memo**.
6/4/20	The FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to allow the use by healthcare personnel of certain non-surgical gowns and other apparel as PPE in low or minimal risk level situations when PPE is in short supply. Read the FDA EUA.
6/4/20	HHS announced new Guidance that specifies what additional data must be reported to HHS by laboratories along with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) test results. The new requirement includes demographic data like race, ethnicity, age, and sex. https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0604-new-lab-data-reporting.html
6/8/20	New FDA Guidance I Respirator Decontamination: In response to public health and safety concerns about the appropriateness of decontaminating certain respirators, the FDA is reissuing certain emergency use authorizations (EUAs) to specify which respirators are appropriate for decontamination. FDA has decided that certain respirators should not be decontaminated for reuse by healthcare personnel, including respirators that have exhalation valves. Read the FDA statement.
6/9/20	The FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) to Illumina, Inc. for Illumina COVIDSeq Test, the first COVID-19 diagnostic test utilizing next generation sequence technology. This test is for the qualitative detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from respiratory specimens collected from individuals suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider. Next generation

	sequencing is a type of diagnostic technology that can determine, among other things, the genetic sequence of a virus. Comparing sequencing results over time can help scientists understand if and how viruses mutate. Read the FDA statement.
6/10/20	The Physiological Burden of Prolonged PPE Use on Healthcare Workers during Long Shifts: https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/06/10/ppe-burden/?deliveryName=USCDC_170-DM30302
6/11/20	CMS Recommendations for Reopening Facilities to Provide Non-emergent Non-COVID-19 Healthcare
6/16/20	Considerations for Covering N95s to Extend Use: https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/06/16/covering-n95s/?deliveryName=USCDC_170-DM30742
6/17/20	**FDA Revokes EUA for Hydroxychloroquine** The FDA revoked the emergency use authorization (EUA) that allowed chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate use to treat certain hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Based on its ongoing analysis, the agency determined that the potential benefits of these drugs no longer outweigh the known and potential risks. **Read the FDA statement**.
6/17/20	**FDA Warns of Potential Drug Interaction with Remdesivir** The FDA is warning healthcare providers about a potential drug interaction related to the investigational antiviral drug, remdesivir, which is being used for the treatment of hospitalized COVID-19 patients with severe disease. The FDA is revising the **fact sheet for healthcare providers** to state that co-administration of remdesivir and chloroquine phosphate or hydroxychloroquine sulfate is not recommended. **Read the FDA statement**.
6/17/20	**GAO Recommends Improved Infectious Disease Modeling** The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on infectious disease modeling in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).The report found that HHS agencies used multiple mechanisms for modeling efforts but lacked coordination across agencies. The GAO recommends that HHS develop better coordination efforts and that CDC establish guidelines to ensure reproducibility of its models. **Read the GAO report**.
6/18/20	**CDC Health Advisory: Recent Detection of Resistant Meninococcal Disease:** Meningococcal disease, which typically presents as meningitis or meningococcemia, is a life-threatening illness requiring prompt antibiotic treatment for patients and antibiotic prophylaxis for their close contacts. *N. meningitidis* isolates in the U.S. have been largely susceptible to the antibiotics recommended for treatment and prophylaxis. However, 11 penicillin- and ciprofloxacin-resistant meningococcal disease cases have been detected in the U.S. during 2019–2020. For more information, see the CDC Health Advisory notice.
6/18/20	6/24/20 Webinar "Learning to Treat COVID-19: Clinical Trials and Developing Therapeutics During a Pandemic." CEU Available. The webinar, sponsored by the National Academy of Medicine and the American Public Health Association, will discuss how clinicians are learning to treat COVID-19. It will include presentations on how scientists have adapted clinical trials to respond to the restrictions and requirements of a pandemic response; best practices in clinical care for those with COVID-19 right now; and promising therapeutics and preventive drugs currently enrolled in clinical trials globally. Register for the webinar.
6/18/20	The FDA revoked the emergency use authorization (EUA) of the Chembio Diagnostic System, Inc. (Chembio) DPP COVID-19 IgM/IgG System, a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test, due to performance concerns with the accuracy of the test. Read the FDA statement.
6/18/20	The U.S. FDA has issued warning letters to three companies for marketing adulterated and misbranded COVID-19 antibody tests. Violations outlined in the warning letters include: • offering test kits for sale in the United States directly to consumers for at-home use without marketing approval, clearance, or authorization from the FDA; • misbranding products with labeling that falsely claims products are "FDA approved"; and • labeling that bears the FDA logo, which is only for the official use by the FDA and not for use on private sector materials.

	The FDA reminds the public that, at the present time, there are no diagnostic or antibody COVID-19 test kits that are authorized, cleared or approved to be used completely at home. Read the FDA statement.

Texas Register (2019-2020)

http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml

Key: X Pending

Last Review Completed: **6/12/2020**

Current Search Parameters for Review:
25 TAC: Chapters 2, 97, 133, 135, 200
30 TAC: Chapter 330; Subchapter Y

X	Date Filed	Action	Title/Ch./Rules/SB /HB	Topic / Comments
	12/2/19	***Adopted***	**25 TAC §§200.1 - 200.6**	Rule amendment to comply with S.B. 384. The new law alters the list of HAIs that health care facilities must report to DSHS by removing the language outlining the specific medical procedures required for HAI reporting by facility type, and replacing it with a requirement for all health care facilities to report the list of HAIs that the CMS require facilities participating in the Medicare program to report. These changes have the effect of aligning state reporting requirements with federal CMS reporting requirements. In reference to NHSN, the rule eliminates the wording "or its successor."
	3/29/19	***Adopted***	**25 TAC §133.50**	Requires that a hospital provide a patient the opportunity to designate a caregiver to receive aftercare instructions on admission or before the patient is discharged or transferred to another facility. Also outlines the hospital's responsibility to document information, in the patient's medical record, regarding the designated caregiver or the patient's declination to designate a caregiver.
	1/18/19	***Signed by Governor***	**S.B. No. 384**	**Effective 9/1/19.** **For HAIs occurring on or after 1/1/2020** Expands what HAIs must be reported by hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to the Texas Department of State Health Services. A hospital or ambulatory surgical center must report each HAI to the Texas Department of State Health Services regardless of the facility's participation in Medicare. The legislation would also require the pathogen to be identified if the infection is laboratory confirmed. https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=SB384
X	2/4/19	***Referred to Human Services committee (2/27/19)***	**HB 1360**	Relating to prevention of communicable diseases in certain long-term care facilities. https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=HB1360

	2/14/19	***Signed by Governor***	**HB 1848**	**Effective 9/1/19** Companion to HB 1360 – relating to prevention of communicable diseases in certain long-term care facilities. https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=HB1848
X	1/10/19	***Left pending in committee (4/23/19)***	**SB 329**	Relating to requirements for and the transparency of epidemiological reports and certain immunization exemption information and reports. The dept shall prepare & submit "(1) report of outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases in this state; and (2) de-identified immunization exemption information, including the number of persons claiming an exemption from the immunization requirements"
X	2/7/19	***Referred to Public Health 2/27/19***	**HB 1490**	Relating to claiming an exemption from required immunizations for public school students. "The department may not maintain a record of the number of affidavit forms submitted or the names of individuals who submit [request] an affidavit form under this section."
	3/27/20	***Effective 3/27/20-7/24/20***	**25 TAC §135.2, §135.26**	The Executive Commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) adopts on an emergency basis in Title 25 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 135, Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs), amendments to §135.2 and §135.26, in order to expand ASCs' treatment capabilities and modify current reporting requirements to mitigate issues caused by patient surge due to COVID-19. (complete text was posted in the APIC-DFW GAC section)

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