



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org> Jan. 1, 2024

Member of the National Quality Forum & designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Activity for the Month of Nov. Health Watch USAsm:

- 1 Article/Op-Ed regarding COVID-19.
- 3 Written Comments.
- 1 Presentation.
- 2023 HW USA Conference Videos are Available.

Information Regarding Health Watch USAsm Sept. 14th, 2022 COVID-19 Conference - Frontline Worker Safety: <https://healthconference.org>

Health Watch USAsm 2022 Activities Report:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20221231-HWUSA-Report-2022-2.pdf>

Health Watch USAsm 2021 Activities Report:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20211231-HWUSA-Report-2021.pdf>

Health Watch USAsm 2020 Activities Report:

<https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20201231-HWUSA-Report-2020.pdf>

Nov. 1st, 2023, Health Watch USAsm Webinar

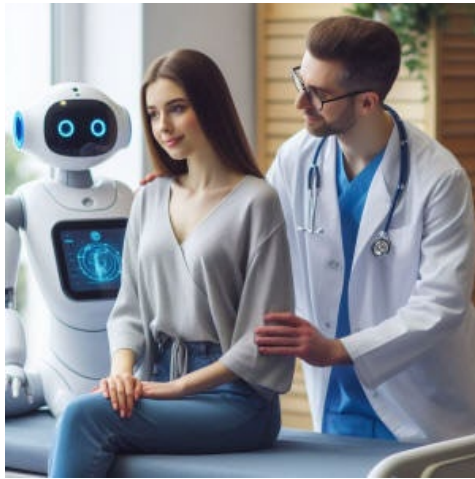


**Long COVID's
Impact on
Patients, Workers &
Society**
Health Watch USAsm

*Speaker Presentation Videos and PowerPoints Can Be Viewed
At: <https://healthconference.org>*

*To take the continuing education course (no charges apply) go
to: <https://sokyahec.thinkific.com/courses/longcovidimpact>*

Health Watch USAsm - Peer Reviewed-Publications, News Articles & OpEds



How Artificial Intelligence Is Revolutionizing Diagnosis in Health Care

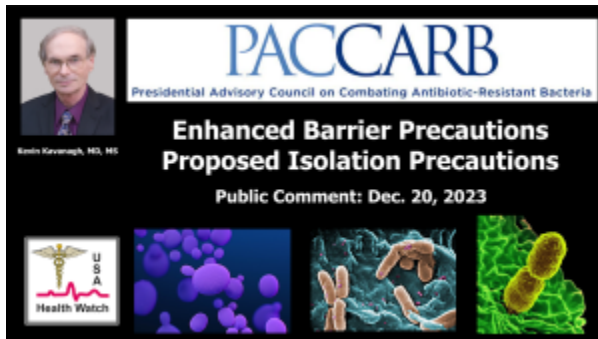
Diagnostic errors are a long-standing, pervasive problem. A recent study published in the British Medical Journal, Quality & Safety, estimates that in the United States, 795,000 patients suffer serious harm each year from diagnostic errors. The big 3 categories of diseases where these errors occurred were vascular events, infectious diseases, and cancers. There was an average medical error occurrence of 11% and a rate of patient harm of 4.4%. There is little doubt that AIs will be widely used to aid physicians in making diagnoses and nurses in making patient intake and triage decisions. Implementing AI

promises to increase patient safety, accuracy, and efficiency. The latter, however, will mean fewer medical jobs for humans, but with the potential of patients having greater access to more affordable health care. [References](#) Infection Control Today. Dec. 22, 2023.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/how-artificial-intelligence-is-revolutionizing-diagnosis-health-care>



Health Watch USAsm - Meeting Presentations & Comments



PACCARB, Dec. 20, 2023. Enhanced Barrier Precautions and Revisions to Recommendations for Contact Precautions.

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA(sm) discusses concerns regarding the CDC's proposed Enhanced Barrier Precautions and Isolation Precautions. A case is made that these

precautions are a step backwards and will not stop infections, nor will they help prepare us for the next pandemic. PACCARB Meeting. Dec. 20, 2023. View Video:

https://youtu.be/q_UiDIIIeIO [Written Comment](#)

Download Signed Comment Letter (as of Dec. 20, 2024) [Download CDC Letter](#)

ASPR Nov. 30, 2023. CDC Proposed Recommendations and the Effects on Supply Chain and Pandemic.

Comment calling for the assurance of an adequate supply of negative pressure patient rooms and an adequate supply and production capacity for N95 masks. New CDC proposals will decrease usage of these resources which will result in a decreased production capacity for N95 masks and an inadequate number of negative pressure rooms available for the next pandemic. [View Written Comment](#)

CDC Dec. 30, 2023 Update. Regarding the CDC/HICPAC's Draft Guidance for Health Care Respiratory Protection and Infection Control and Compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act.

Eleven healthcare/patient advocacy organizations along with 21 patient advocates and healthcare providers have petitioned the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to consider the needs of immunocompromised patients and healthcare workers in their formulation of new draft recommendations for infection control. Such consideration is mandatory under The Americans with Disabilities Act. The importance of this initiative is underscored by the recent EPOCH and INFORM studies which document and underscore the profound risks that immunocompromised individuals have when exposed to COVID-19. The EPOCH-US Study concluded that:

"Immunocompromised populations appear to be at substantial risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes, leading to increased costs and HCRU. Effective prophylactic options are still needed for these high-risk populations as the COVID-19 landscape evolves." One of the areas which is both at high risk for COVID-19 transmission and unavoidable for immunocompromised individuals are healthcare settings. [View Letter](#) [View Updated Dec. 30 Letter](#) [View CDC Response](#)

View YouTube Video of Related CDC Comment: https://youtu.be/zUV5Tx_EFI4



Health Watch USAsm - Articles of Interest



Dosage is important Digital measurement of SARS-CoV-2 transmission risk from 7 million contacts

While most exposures were short (median 0.7 hours, IQR 0.4-1.6), transmissions typically resulted from exposures lasting one hour to several days (median 6 hours, IQR 1.4-28). Households accounted for about 6% of contacts but 40% of transmissions. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06952-2>

Vaccines reduce the risk of long COVID in children

"A study shows that US children who received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have some protection against developing long-lasting symptoms of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Vaccinated children are less likely than unvaccinated children to develop long COVID, the myriad of symptoms that can last for months to years following a SARS-CoV-2 infection, according to a forthcoming US study. The results, presented in October at the annual health-care conference IDWeek in Boston, Massachusetts,

and due to be published in the coming months, demonstrated that vaccination reduced the likelihood of developing at least one long COVID symptom by 34% and of developing two or more symptoms by 48%. Yousaf says that this is likely to be an underestimate, because the study only looked at children who had an infection; it did not consider that the vaccine can reduce the chances of developing the infection, which also decreases the likelihood of long COVID." Nature Briefing <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-04032-z#ref-CR1>

Changes in Hospital Adverse Events and Patient Outcomes Associated With Private Equity Acquisition

"Private equity acquisition was associated with increased hospital-acquired adverse events, including falls and central line-associated bloodstream infections, along with a larger but less statistically precise increase in surgical site infections. Shifts in patient mix toward younger and fewer dually eligible beneficiaries admitted and increased transfers to other hospitals may explain the small decrease in in-hospital mortality at private equity hospitals relative to the control hospitals, which was no longer evident 30 days after discharge. These findings heighten concerns about the implications of private equity on health care delivery." Jama Network, Dec. 26, 2023. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2813379>

Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Infants in the United States: Incidence, Severity, Fatality, and Variants of Concern

"The cumulative case hospitalization rate was 4.1% (95% CI: 4.0%–4.3%). For every 74 hospitalized infants, one infant death occurred, but overall COVID-19-related infant case fatality was low, with 7.0 deaths per 10,000 cases (95% CI: 5.6–8.7). Nationwide, 333 COVID-19 infant deaths were reported." Pediatric Infectious Disease. https://journals.lww.com/pidj/fulltext/9900/epidemiology_of_covid_19_in_infants_in_the_united_states.675.aspx

U.K. Nurses Ask For Masks And Respirators As Covid Cases Rise

"U.K. nurses want to bring back masks in all healthcare settings as cases of a new Covid-19 variant increase." Forbes: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/katherinehignett/2023/12/23/uk-nurses-ask-for-masks-and-respirators-as-covid-cases-rise/>

Rift over N95 Use Puts Health Workers at Risk Again

Maxmen A, & KFF Health News: "The pandemic illustrated how a rift between the CDC and workplace safety officials can have serious repercussions. Most recently, the giant hospital system Sutter Health in California appealed a citation from the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, known as Cal/OSHA, by pointing to the CDC's shifting advice on when and whether N95 masks were needed at the start of the pandemic. By contrast, Cal/OSHA requires employers in high-risk settings like hospitals to improve ventilation, use air filtration, and provide N95s to all staff exposed to diseases that are — or may be — airborne." Scientific America. Dec. 26, 2023. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/rift-over-n95-use-puts-health-workers-at-risk-again/>

10% of US Physicians Work for or Under UnitedHealth. Is That a Problem?

"McNamara, chair of emergency medicine at Temple University's Katz School of Medicine, told Medscape that more than half the states in the US have laws or court rulings that support protecting physician autonomy from corporate interests. Still, he hopes a federal prohibition on private equity's involvement in healthcare can soon gain traction. Last month, Take Medicine Back raised a resolution at the American Medical Association's interim House of Delegates meeting, which he said was subsequently referred to a committee. Emergency medicine was among the first specialties to succumb to private equity firms, but McNamara said that all types of healthcare providers and entities — from cardiology and urology to addiction treatment centers and nursing homes — are being swallowed up by larger organizations, including payers. UHC was named in a class action suit last month for allegedly shirking doctors' orders and relying on a flawed algorithm to determine the length of skilled nursing facility stays for Medicare Advantage policyholders." Medscape <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/10-us-physicians-work-or-under-unitedhealth-problem-2023a1000vhg>

The Removal of Airborne Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Other Microbial Bioaerosols by Air Filtration on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Surge Units

"Airborne severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was detected in a coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) ward before activation of HEPA-air filtration but not during filter operation; SARS-CoV-2 was again detected following filter deactivation. Airborne SARS-CoV-2 was infrequently detected in a COVID-19 intensive care unit. Bioaerosol was also effectively filtered." Clinical Infectious Diseases <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/75/1/e97/6414657>

Possible cancer-causing capacity of COVID-19: Is SARS-CoV-2 an oncogenic agent?

" Similar to many oncogenic viruses, it has been hypothesized that SARS-CoV-2 employs various strategies to cause cancer in different organs. These include leveraging the renin angiotensin system, altering tumor suppressing pathways by means of its nonstructural proteins, and triggering inflammatory cascades by enhancing cytokine production in the form of a "cytokine storm" paving the way for the emergence of cancer stem cells in target organs. Since infection with SARS-CoV-2 occurs in several organs either directly or indirectly, it is expected that cancer stem cells may develop in multiple organs. " Biochimie.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10202899/>



**Nov. 1st, 2023
Health Watch
USAsm Webinar**

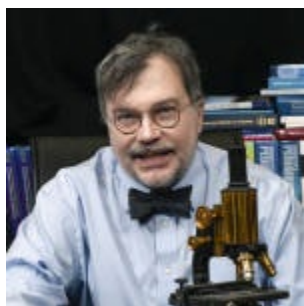
**Long COVID's Impact on Patients, Workers & Society
Health Watch USAsm**

For More Information Go To: <http://www.healthconference.org>

Speakers for the Nov. 1st 2023 Webinar Include:



Ambassador Deborah Birx, MD Past White House Coordinator Coronavirus Response (USA) "Impact of Long COVID on the United States".



Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine. will present on "Global Vaccines and Vaccinations: The Science vs The Anti-science."

Dr Hotez will discuss the impact of developing new low cost and accessible vaccines for global health, including a recombinant protein COVID-19 "people's vaccine" now administered to more than 100 million adolescents and children in India and Indonesia. He will also discuss new trends in antivaccine sentiments in the US and an escalating and globalizing antisience empire.

Additional Presenters:

1. Pam Belluck, New York Times Reporter -- Presentation: "How Long COVID is affecting people's jobs and their needs at work."

2. Eleni Iasonidou, MD, Pediatrician, Founder of Long Covid Greece and a one of the very first Greek representatives to join Long Covid Kids. Presentation: "Long Covid and its impact on

children."

3. Georgios Pappas, MD, PhD, Physician, Researcher and Advocate. Specializing on zoonoses and preparedness against deliberate and natural outbreaks/ epidemics – Presentation: "Combating Disinformation regarding COVID-19 and Long COVID."

4. Jane Thomason, MSPH, CIH, Industrial Hygienist, National Nurses United & California Nurses Association -- Presentation: "The impact of Long COVID on Nurses."

5. Greg Vanichkachorn, MD, MPH, Occupational and Aerospace Medicine, Mayo Clinic-- Presentation: "Symptoms, treatment and rehabilitation of patients with Long COVID."

6. Dr. Wilmore Webley, PhD, University of Massachusetts, -- Presentation: "The effectiveness of vaccines to prevent Long COVID."

7. Brian T. Walitt, MD, MPH, Clinician with the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. -- Presentation: "Neuropsychiatric manifestations of Long COVID & Chronic Fatigue Syndrome."

Continuing Education Is Planned for Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapy, Dentistry and Respiratory Therapy. For More information Go To:
<http://www.healthconference.org>

Download Speaker Bios: https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2023Conference_downloads/_Bios-Speakers-2023-HWUSA-Conference-6.pdf

Download Webinar Agenda: https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2023Conference_downloads/_Agenda-1.pdf

For More Information Go To: <http://www.healthconference.org>

Download last year's summary white paper from 2022 Worker Safety Conference (Journal of Patient Safety): https://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Fulltext/9900/Frontline_Worker_Safety_in_the_Age_of_COVID_19_A.126.aspx

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