

February 10: CDC Report on Mask Effectiveness, Monoclonal Antibody Update, and Pandemic Fatigue Webinar

Today's issue features information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the latest data on the effectiveness of masks at reducing the risk of COVID-19. It also includes an update on the availability of monoclonal antibody treatment across the health system, and details about an upcoming webinar on pandemic fatigue and how to manage challenging patient interactions.

CDC REPORT ON N95/KN95 MASK EFFECTIVENESS

On February 4, the CDC released data showing that the use of masks and N95/KN95 respirators significantly lowers the risk of contracting COVID-19. Conducted between February 2021 and December 2021 and involving 534 participants, the study found that always using a face mask or respirator in indoor public settings was associated with lower risk of a positive COVID-19 test compared with never wearing a face mask or respirator in these settings.

Among participants who specified the type of face covering they typically used, wearing N95/KN95 respirators or surgical masks was associated with significantly lower risks of a positive test compared with not wearing one.

- Cloth masks reduced the risk by 56%.
- Surgical masks reduced the risk by 66%.
- N95/KN95 respirators reduced the risk by 83%.

The CDC findings reinforce that consistently wearing a face mask or respirator in indoor public settings reduces the risk of acquiring SARS-CoV-2 infection, in addition to receiving all appropriate COVID-19 vaccinations. Using a respirator offers the highest level of personal protection against acquiring infection, although it is most important to wear a mask or respirator that is comfortable and can be used consistently.

For more information about the study, please view [Effectiveness of Face Mask or Respirator Use in Indoor Public Settings for Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#) on the CDC website. For more information about NM masking guidelines, please view the [Personal Protective Equipment FAQ](#) on Physician Forum and [NM Interactive](#).

MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT UPDATE

As the number of patients with COVID-19 continues to decrease and demand for monoclonal antibody (mAbs) treatment declines, NM has expanded availability of mAbs treatment to patients who meet tier 1 or tier 2 criteria on the [mAbs Clinical Prioritization Model](#).

Tier 1 includes people who are:

- Moderately and severely immunocompromised
- Unvaccinated with three or more **risk factors**
- Unvaccinated pregnant individuals with one or more **risk factors**

Tier 2 includes people who are:

- Vaccinated with three or more **risk factors**

For more information about mAbs treatment, visit the Treatment Resources page in the COVID-19 sections on [Physician Forum](#) and [NMI](#).

PANDEMIC FATIGUE AND ANGER: RESPONDING TO ADVERSARIAL PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

As the pandemic enters its third year, there is a well-documented rise in fatigue and anger in all sectors of the population. Healthcare workers report a similar increase in impatient, frustrated and even hostile patients and visitors in the context of ongoing regulations to prevent the transmission of COVID 19. To help physicians and clinicians successfully navigate these encounters, panelists from diverse professional disciplines will share strategies to de-escalate situations and sustain compassion. The webinar is open to all NM physicians and clinicians, and CME/CNE credit will be offered.

Patient Fatigue and Anger: Responding to Adversarial Patients and Families

Tuesday, February 22, noon to 1 pm

For audio only: 872.240.1267, conference ID 195427873#

Click the Microsoft Teams link above to attend the event.

Featured presenters include Infectious Disease Specialist **Michael G. Ison, MD**; Pulmonology and Critical Care Specialist **Marc A. Sala, MD**; Patient Relations and Interpretation Services Manager Eileen Johnson, PhD, CTP; Clinical Ethicist M. Jeanne Wirpsa, MA, BCC, HED-C; and Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center Nurse Jessica Hnatyko, RN, MS.

As the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 continues to decline across Illinois, Governor Pritzker announced plans to partially lift the indoor mask requirement by the end of the month. This change will not impact healthcare organizations or public transportation, but suggests we are moving towards the next phase of the pandemic with a gradual return to normal. Once again, thank you for all that you have done to provide excellent patient care over the past two years.



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