


TB NURSE NETWORK

TOPIC: TB Testing and COVID-19 Vaccination

Wednesday, January 20, 2021
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. EST



MICHIGAN DHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

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TB CONTACT INVESTIGATION WEBINARS

Recordings now available online for viewing and CEs!

<http://globaltb.njms.rutgers.edu/educationalmaterials/aa/CMECloudWebinars.php>

-  Fundamentals of Contact Investigations
-  Fundamentals of Congregate Settings Investigations
-  Contact Investigation Case Studies

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DR. SUNSTRUM SEMINAR

- Friday, 1/22/21
- [Click here to join the meeting](#) (Microsoft Teams)
- Or call (audio only) 248-509-0316, conference ID: 792 279 903#

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WORLD TB DAY 2021

- Wednesday 3/24/2021
- Virtual event:
 - MI and US TB epidemiology
 - State of the MI TB program
 - TB case presentations



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TB & COVID-19 SYNDEMIC: A STUDY BY A GROUP OF ENGAGED TB CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Key findings:

1. COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on the number of people seeking and receiving healthcare for TB.
2. COVID-19 is driving people with TB into poverty, COVID-19 is driving people with TB into poverty, and social isolation is increasing inequities and human rights-related barriers to TB services.
3. Health systems around the world are weak and ill equipped to respond to simultaneous COVID-19 and TB epidemics.
4. People working in the TB field are seeing significant interruptions and diversions of their work and research to COVID-19.
5. TB funding has decreased significantly since the beginning of the pandemic.
6. Many health facilities and programs have adapted the ways they deliver services and resources in response to COVID-19, which presents an opportunity for the future of TB care and prevention.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/madhukarpai/2020/09/26/tuberculosis-and-covid-19-fighting-a-deadly-syndemic/?sh=7ee1f44a24c5>
<https://spark.adobe.com/page/xj7pygvhrIAqW/>

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03 Key Findings

Health systems everywhere are weak and ill equipped to respond to simultaneous COVID-19 and TB epidemics.

GLOBALLY
There is not enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for people working in TB, resulting in unsafe and challenging working conditions

Healthcare workers reported lacking PPE to safely care for people with TB and COVID-19.

36%
US

69%
GFIC

Policy and program officers reported an increase in stockouts and delays of TB medicines

GLOBALLY
Healthcare workers reported issues of capacity related to their ability to provide TB care and diagnostics services

ACROSS BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SETTINGS,

65%+ POLICY AND PROGRAM OFFICERS reported healthcare facilities to be reducing TB services during the pandemic.

59% OF ADVOCATES FROM GLOBAL FUND ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES reported resources for people with TB being diverted to respond to COVID-19

GLOBALLY
50%+ OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS reported the healthcare facility they worked at to have decreased TB services.

GLOBALLY
57% OF TB RESEARCHERS reported that they did not have the necessary resources to conduct important TB research during the pandemic

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The Impact of COVID-19 on the TB Epidemic: A Community Perspective
[\(https://spark.adobe.com/page/xj7pygvhrIAqW/\)](https://spark.adobe.com/page/xj7pygvhrIAqW/)

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04 Key Findings

People working in the TB field are seeing significant interruptions and diversions in their work and research towards COVID-19.

A majority of TB policy and program officers reported being reassigned to respond to COVID-19

87% US 59% GFIC

90% Work/travel disruptions

81% Delays in research

73% Employees redirected to work on COVID-19 related projects

50%+ OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS reported reductions in TB services where they worked, particularly in private settings

Advocates from Global Fund implementing countries expressed frustration with political attention being diverted to COVID-19 and its dominance of the information and media space.

69% OF ADVOCATES FROM GLOBAL FUND ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES said their work with TB-affected people had decreased during the pandemic.

The Impact of COVID-19 on the TB Epidemic: A Community Perspective
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06 Key Findings

ON A POSITIVE NOTE...

Many health facilities and programs have adapted the ways they deliver services and resources in response to COVID-19, which presents an opportunity for the future of TB care and prevention.

50%+ OF PEOPLE WITH TB IN KENYA AND INDIA reported having received additional medicine to continue their treatment at home

Healthcare workers also reported sending people with TB home with treatment during the pandemic

57% US 78% GFIC

60% OF RESEARCHERS said COVID-19 related research projects they were working on could be repurposed or leveraged for TB

Respondents reported the successful use of innovative solutions in telemedicine and digital health (video, phone, WhatsApp, apps, social media, etc.), as well as greater family and community support for people on TB treatment.

Policy and program officers lauded program innovations to boost virtual care and support, as well as TB community-led initiatives being adapted to incorporate TB- and COVID-19-related challenges, producing real-time information on accessibility, acceptability, availability and quality of services.

ALL GROUPS EMPHASIZED THAT PEOPLE-CENTERED ADAPTATIONS AND EMPOWERING MEASURES SHOULD BE SUSTAINED BEYOND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

All groups identified an opportunity to strengthen the TB response during the pandemic: Investments in COVID-19, such as in contract-tracing or diagnostic capacity, can be leveraged for TB, while heightened interest in and awareness of infectious respiratory diseases and global health offer an entry point for increasing the political will to end TB.

The Impact of COVID-19 on the TB Epidemic: A Community Perspective
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OPEN FORUM...



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THANK YOU!

- Meeting resources will be sent to everyone on the TB Nurse Network listserv and posted [on our website](#)
- Next TB Nurse Network meeting: Wednesday April 21st, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
- Please contact Helen McGuirk with questions, comments or suggestions for presentations and content: mcguirkh@michigan.gov

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