Key Updates

- Project HOPE medical teams continue to support health facilities and vulnerable populations through testing and infection control in Navajo Nation, Illinois and Maryland in the United States.
- Project HOPE recently launched all eight modules of its COVID-19 eLearning curriculum, in partnership with DisasterReady.org.
- Project HOPE continues to expand access to COVID-19 health care worker training, e-Consultations and ECHO sessions around the world in partnership with Brown University, the Weitzman Institute, University of New Mexico, and other partners.

Situation Update

The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to escalate, with more than 12 million confirmed cases and over half a million deaths. Project HOPE continues to see the effect of this pandemic and its complexities on the ground through COVID-19 response activities and HOPE’s ongoing global health programs. Project HOPE country teams continue to report the increasing burden on health systems and vulnerable populations.

The pandemic is a compounding factor in countries experiencing ongoing health and humanitarian crises, such as Colombia, where HOPE is supporting hospitals and health clinics serving Venezuelan refugees and host communities. Project HOPE staff in Colombia report it can take nearly two weeks for patients to receive COVID-19 test results, which means health experts are working with weeks old data and do not have a complete picture of the current situation.

Additionally, this week Project HOPE’s team in Kyrgyzstan reported the worsening situation countrywide over the last two weeks, as the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths as well as deaths attributed to COVID-19 have spiked. All hospitals are reportedly full, with some patients unable to be admitted to hospitals. The Kyrgyzstan government recently opened emergency outpatient facilities in stadiums, hotels and other venues to help handle the overflow and re-instituted a countrywide lockdown on July 5 to help bend the curve. HOPE is mobilizing Russian-language trainings to support frontline healthcare workers in Kyrgyzstan.
Project HOPE is continuing to monitor the situation, with a focus on countries where we work, and will share new findings as the pandemic evolves.

**HOPE’s U.S. Response**
In the United States, Project HOPE is responding to COVID-19 on-the-ground through PPE distribution and with teams of medical volunteers providing critical support in some of the hardest hit areas of the country. Recent activities are highlighted below.

**Supporting Montgomery County in Mobile COVID-19 Testing**
Project HOPE continues to support mobile testing efforts in Montgomery County, Maryland with a focus on the most vulnerable populations, including staff and residents of homeless shelters and group homes.

**Reducing Infection Risk at Long-Term Care Facilities**
Since early May, Project HOPE’s team has been on the ground supporting 35 long-term care facilities (LTCFs) with more than 5,197 residents in under-resourced areas in suburban Cook County (16) and the city of Chicago (19) to reduce COVID-19 infection rates and risks. These LTCFs have confirmed more than 2,000 COVID-19 cases total; however, in recent weeks LTCFs implementing infection risk mitigation plans with Project HOPE have reported a decline in positive COVID-19 tests among residents.

**HOPE’s Global Response**
Project HOPE is collaborating with Ministries of Health and partners around the world to strengthen the global response to COVID-19. Recent key response activities are highlighted below.

**COVID-19 e-Learning Platform**
All eight modules of Project HOPE’s free online eLearning curriculum *COVID-19 Training for Health Workers: Preparedness and Response* are now live on DisasterReady.org. The eLearning was designed in partnership with DisasterReady.org and is based on Project HOPE’s COVID-19 training developed in coordination with the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies at the Watson Institute of Brown University. Since its partial launch in late June, nearly 600 people from 83 countries have accessed at least one module.

The eLearning version was designed for health workers and public health professionals seeking a self-paced comprehensive training on COVID-19 that can be applied immediately in the workplace. The training was designed to be mobile phone friendly and low-bandwidth accessible to help ensure health workers in hard-to-reach locations have access to the course materials. The training is available in English, and a Spanish version is launching in the next several weeks. Click here to register and view the e-Learning.

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**Top 10 countries represented by COVID-19 e-Learning participants:**

1. United States
2. Nigeria
3. India
4. Philippines
5. Bangladesh
6. Kenya
7. Pakistan
8. Ethiopia
9. Yemen
10. South Africa
COVID-19 e-Consultations in collaboration with the Weitzman Institute
Project HOPE, in partnership with the Weitzman Institute and ConferMED, continues to expand access to e-Consultations for health care workers treating patients with COVID-19. Project HOPE recently launched the e-Consult platform in Colombia with doctors and nurses working at peripheral health clinics in Villa del Rosario and the regional University Hospital of Erasmo Meoz in Cúcuta. The peripheral clinics are conducting screening and triage of patients with respiratory symptoms and then immediately refer them to regional Hospital.

The first e-Consult session was successful, through which doctors at Erasmo Meoz were able to receive guidance from Weitzman Institute experts on treatment for a newborn baby who was presumptive positive and later confirmed positive for COVID-19. Testing delays remain a significant challenge. In the case of this newborn, it took 12 days to receive the positive test result.

COVID-19 ECHO Sessions in Latin America & the Caribbean
Project HOPE is continuing to expand access to Spanish language COVID-19 ECHO sessions, which provide medical knowledge and develops specialty care capacity in underserved communities, for the Latin American & Caribbean (LAC) region. To date, three ECHO sessions have been held with health providers from LAC in partnership with the University of New Mexico, Project ECHO, and the Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas de Estudios de la Salud.

The first session on COVID-19 Treatment Updates reached 133 frontline personnel across 13 countries. These sessions will continue to be weekly and management will transition over to LAC providers for further expansion. (See Figures 1 and 2 for breakdown of participant types and participants per countries for the first ECHO session held.)

Project HOPE continues to partner with the Weitzman Institute on COVID-19 ECHO sessions for health care workers in the United States. These can be viewed here.

COVID-19 Training for Frontline Health Workers
Since late March, experts from Project HOPE and Brown University have trained 1,369 Master Trainers in the curriculum’s eight core competencies essential to effective COVID-19 response and patient care, including most recently 256 Master Trainers from Mexico, Brazil, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, the Bahamas and Bangladesh.
To date, Master Trainers have rapidly cascaded training modules and information to more than 29,100 health care workers and frontline personnel. The COVID-19 training materials continue to be available to download on Project HOPE’s website.