Performing Public Health: Advisory | Remote Cultures | Unique Precarities

UNIQUE PRECARITIES: The Urgency of Covid

Creative Responses to COVID-19: U.S. Department for Arts and Culture Listening Shareback
We broke down what we heard into four different priority areas:

Fund:
artists and cultural workers are struggling economically.

Heal:
a need to pace ourselves and to find creative ways to support personal and community mental health and wellbeing for the long journey ahead

Connect:
From creative uses of Zoom, to Story Circles, to socially-distanced public art projects, artists are showing the power of creativity to build local connections. We were reminded also to think of internet connectivity as a privilege and to consider the communities without digital access.

Change the damn system:
The ways that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable has highlighted just how broken our system already was. It wasn't working for people who are incarcerated, for immigrants, for the elderly, disabled, poor, homeless, queer, black, Indigenous and other people of color. Indigenous communities revisiting the generational trauma of pandemic are experiencing some of the highest rates of COVID-19 infections. Black people continue to bear the brunt of police and white supremacist violence under COVID-19.

UNIQUE PRECARITIES:

- Disability/Immunocompromised Communities
- Marginalized Communities
- Elder Communities
- Pregnant Communities
- Essential Care Workers
- Indigenous Communities

COVID-19 and The Naturalization of Vulnerability
“Seniors and elders in nursing homes and elsewhere aren’t inherently vulnerable; nor are disabled people in institutions inherently vulnerable. Both of these groups (among others) are made vulnerable.”

Structural Racism, White Fragility, and Ventilator Rationing Policies
“It’s been painful to watch health leaders twist themselves into moral knots denying that recently created ventilator rationing guidance will differentially affect Blacks, Latinx, and other people of color. On television, in newspapers, and on listservs, when the predicted disproportionate impacts of these policies are raised, some bioethicists—often white, stonewall. Or repeat a policy’s assertions that race, ethnicity, disability, etc. are irrelevant to care decisions.”

Ethics Talk: Disability Community Perspectives on COVID-19
AMA Journal of Ethics

April 24, 2020 Letter to Expand Pay and Definition of Essential Care Workers
“We urge Congress to adopt an inclusive definition of who is an essential worker and require premium pay to all essential workers who must go to work during this pandemic.”
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COMMUNITY ARTIST / ACTIVIST RESOURCES

Culture Surge
“We believe that artists and culture-makers are the visionary leaders needed to galvanize us towards a future rooted in justice, care, and connection.”

How to help Black people with disabilities
List of resources prioritizing Black people with disabilities.

Center For Cultural Power - Confronting Crisis with Imagination
“If we get this right, we’ll never go back to normal.”

Disability, Creativity, and Care in the Time of COVID-19
“We are experiencing increased vulnerability, but, at the same time, our ingenuity, knowledge, and genius skills are suddenly relevant to the rest of humanity.”

Mask for lip-reading
A mask design that is accessible to the D/deaf community.

ACADEMIC / MEDICAL / LEGAL RESOURCES

The Color of Corona: COVID-19 deaths analyzed by race and ethnicity
A regularly updated research document by APM Research Lab. As of May 19, 2020, nearly 92,000 Americans had died of COVID-19. Data about race is available for 88% of these deaths.

A series of symposiums that address the COVID-19 pandemic from an intersectional lens. Topics include ‘Mobilizing Whiteness to Re-Open America,’ ‘COVID in Confinement,’ ‘The Intersectional Failures that COVID Lays Bare’ and more.

March 28, 2020 BULLETIN: Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
After disability advocacy groups filed civil rights complaints against discriminatory state and hospital triage policies, the HHS Office of Civil rights responded with guidance affirming the civil rights of people with disabilities.

Evaluation Framework for Crisis Standard of Care Plans
A document from leading disability advocacy organizations that goes into greater detail on the guidance issued by the HHS Office of Civil Rights.

### Precarious Communities

- Disability/Immunocompromised Communities
- Marginalized Communities
- Essential Care Workers
- Experiencing Homelessness
- Elder Communities
- Indigenous Communities
- Pregnancy
Many Undocumented Immigrants are Frontline Workers, But Their Families Can’t Get Government Aid
“Being called ‘essential’ doesn’t change the fact that we, as undocumented people, are having to keep this country running, but are also kept out of any government aid.”

NoBodyisDisposable.org
“We are people targeted by triage plans during the COVID-19 pandemic — people with disabilities, fat people, old people, people with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses — and our loved ones who don’t want us to die. We partner with social justice and civil rights organizations, as well as medical professionals to demand policies that avoid triage and avoid discrimination in triage.”

“Not Fragile”: Survivor-Led Mutual Aid Projects Flourish in a Time of Crisis
“The adaptability of people who have always been “at risk”

Decolonizing Community Care in Response to COVID-19
“Now more than ever it is imperative for us to decolonize from individualism and reconnect with ways of community care.”

COVID-19 Triage and Disability: What NOT To Do
“One core argument against some of the emerging COVID-19 triage protocols is that they are discriminatory against disabled people when they use criteria that deprioritize them because of a belief that their lives are of less value because they are of less quality.”

#WeAreEssential: Why Disabled People Should Be Appointed to Hospital Triage Committees
“We must now do everything we can to avoid a triage decision-making process that pushes disabled people to the side. One important action is to appoint people with disabilities, and especially those of color, to hospital triage committees.”

Coronavirus and the Politics of Care - Law and Political Economy
“The most urgent need is for a new politics of care in this pandemic

Achieving A Fair and Effective COVID-19 Response: An Open Letter to Vice-President Mike Pence, and Other Federal, State and Local Leaders from Public Health and Legal Experts in the United States
“The letter calls for direct interventions to try to reduce the precarity in which so many workers, carers, and migrants today in the US live, so that everyone is in a position to cooperate with recommendations that will benefit us all.”

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COMMUNITY ARTIST / ACTIVIST RESOURCES

Permanently Organized Communities
“A just transition to economies of sacredness and care in this emerging COVID-19 moment”

Protect the Sacred
“Protect the Sacred started as an emergency response to the growing crisis in the Navajo Nation from COVID-19.”

Coronavirus and Spirituality
Today’s episode is about the coronavirus and spirituality with Elliot Kukla, a rabbi at the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center in San Francisco where he has provided spiritual care to those who are dying, ill, or bereaved since 2008. I got a chance to talk with Elliot about a recent essay he wrote for The New York Times titled “My Life Is More ‘Disposable’ During This Pandemic.” Elliot is grateful to his partner Abby Weintraub for her care and collaboration that makes all his work possible.

Native Americans & COVID-19 Town Hall
“Our values and our ancestral teachings are so relevant right now,” said Jodi Archambault of the Wend Collective during the town hall. “Communities are planting gardens, children are learning songs, and they’re learning languages. Without audiences, people are just doing it because it makes their hearts sing.”

ACADEMIC / MEDICAL / LEGAL RESOURCES

Sustaining the Well-Being of Healthcare Personnel during Coronavirus and other Infectious Disease Outbreaks - from the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

Caring for our caregivers during COVID-19
List of Resources from the American Medical Association

Southern Poverty Law Center Statement on CDC Statement on Extension of CDC Order
Public health experts have confirmed that expelling hundreds of unaccompanied children and blocking asylum seekers is not a rational response to the public health challenges our country faces. Instead of turning asylum seekers and unaccompanied children away at the U.S. border, we can and should follow the advice of public health experts to implement evidence-based policies that will protect all of us and allow us to live up to our moral and legal responsibilities to these vulnerable groups.

Southern Poverty Law Center Statement on Passage of HEROES Act
“We commend members of the U.S House of Representatives for passing the HEROES Act. It is an important step to ensuring critical resources go to those who need it most, particularly communities of color in the deep South.”

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Southern Poverty Law Center fights to keep children out of JD and other encloses spaces during pandemic

“The case is part of a broader initiative the SPLC and its partners have undertaken to free young people in danger of the coronavirus – and other health risks – from juvenile detention facilities, correctional facilities and other group placements. The SPLC is looking to represent more youth who have been detained during the pandemic.”

Pregnancy during COVID- What Are the Risks?

If you are pregnant, you recently delivered a baby or you are breast-feeding, you’re probably concerned about the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on you and your baby. Here’s what you need to know.

Although there are currently no data showing that COVID-19 affects pregnant people differently than others, we do know that pregnant people are at greater risk of getting sick from other respiratory viruses than people who are not pregnant. Sometimes, this causes adverse outcomes for the mother or child. Therefore, if you are pregnant, be mindful about reducing your risk of getting sick.
COVID-19. Pregnancy and Breastfeeding
Experts are learning more every day about the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is following the situation closely. This page will be updated as ACOG learns new information for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

US Interagency Council on Homelessness
Homelessness services systems should be working closely with their city and county governments and public health systems to prepare for COVID-19 disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.

State of Play: COVID-19 and Homelessness
This document was created and supported by the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and UnitedHealthcare Community & State.

COVID-19 and Homelessness
Protecting people experiencing homelessness is critical for saving lives, containing the spread, and preventing our hospitals from being overwhelmed.
Media, Inequality and Change Center
Communication is a diverse discipline, but one that consistently deals with some of the most current and relevant topics we face. Annenberg School for Communication researchers study everything from the ongoing crisis in journalism, to how gig workers use apps to make a living, to efforts to get smokers to quit. But no matter their area of specialty, many Annenberg faculty and students have responded to recent events by pivoting their work to address what may be the world’s most urgent problem: coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Open Letter Advocating for Anti-Racist Health Response
White supremacy is a lethal public health issue that predates and contributes to COVID-19. Black people are twice as likely to be killed by police compared to white people, but the effects of racism are far more pervasive. Black people suffer from dramatic health disparities in life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality, chronic medical conditions, and outcomes from acute illnesses like myocardial infarction and sepsis. Biological determinants are insufficient to explain these disparities.

Public Health Experts say the pandemic is exactly why protests must continue.
Facing a slew of media requests asking about how protests might be a risk for COVID-19 transmission, a group of infectious disease experts at the University of Washington, with input from other colleagues, drafted a collective response. In an open letter published Sunday, they write that “protests against systemic racism, which fosters the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 on Black communities and also perpetuates police violence, must be supported.”