The deadly COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest public health crisis the U.S. has ever faced. The Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy has marshalled its outstanding network of experts to respond to the crisis in real time, guiding Federal and state leaders through this extraordinarily difficult period. Interdisciplinary faculty and researchers from Duke University, Duke Health System and other leading health organizations are collaborating on vital, evidence-based strategies needed now to address the pandemic.

Duke-Margolis has put forward key policy steps leaders must take to respond comprehensively to the COVID-19 pandemic, to reopen the nation successfully, and create a more secure health care system. At the same time, the Center continues its vital mission to educate tomorrow’s health policy leaders, develop and analyze new data, provide timely thought leadership, and engage the greater public through outreach and education.

Following are highlights of the work from the Center’s faculty, researchers and students since mid-March 2020.

**ADVANCING HEALTH POLICY**

Seminal paper, “Advancing Treatments to Save Lives and Reduce the Risk of COVID-19” (March 18)
- Urged the Administration to create two FDA task forces to 1) develop strategies for enhancing testing, especially point-of-care diagnostics; and 2) support rapid development, production and distribution of effective therapeutics and prophylactics
- Recommended the White House accelerate a COVID-19 surveillance public-private partnership to track new cases
- Bi-partisan Senate and House letters urged the White House to take up this approach, directly informed by the Center’s thought leadership.

Extensive, four-phase recommendations for a “Road Map to Reopening,” issued with the American Enterprise Institute, and outlining key steps to move past the current surge response (March 29)
- **Phase 1:** (current phase): Slow the spread through testing, enhanced access to health care, continued social and physical distancing
- **Phase 2:** Reopen responsibly, state by state, as guided by testing and tracking data
- **Phase 3:** Establish immune protection through serum testing; lift physical distancing requirements
- **Phase 4:** Rebuild readiness for the next pandemic

Policy papers advancing key recommendations for putting a comprehensive roadmap into action:
- “A National COVID-19 Surveillance System: Achieving Containment,” (April 7). Duke-Margolis recommends a nationwide system of tracking and data sharing on outbreaks; widespread serum (antibody) testing to determine exposure and potential immunity
- “Achieving Widespread Availability of Timely and Efficient COVID-19 Testing,” (March 26) Duke-Margolis recommends large-scale access to testing and reduced regulatory hurdles to facilitate development of diagnostics and medications to treat the virus.

Thought leadership and learnings from a global pandemic disseminated as guidance around the globe.
- Funding the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines (March 31) Duke-Margolis faculty member estimates funding gap and proposes financing mechanism with World Bank/CEPI.
- COVID-19 Pandemic and Health Innovation webinar at Innovations in Healthcare Annual Forum (March 17).

**CONDUCTING KEY RESEARCH AND POLICY**

A Duke University/ Duke Clinical Research Institute team led by Duke-Margolis faculty has been awarded up to $50 million to engage health care workers across the nation to research the impact of COVID-19 on their own health and evaluate whether hydroxychloroquine can prevent COVID-19 infections in health care workers at high risk. The work includes the development of the Healthcare Worker Exposure Response and Outcomes (HERO) study.

Modeling NC Hospitals’ COVID-19 Surge Capacity—Duke-Margolis faculty led briefings for the state's legislature and media on a policy brief modeling that NC’s COVID-19 cases could surge to 750,000 if social distancing is lifted too early. This work is a collaborative effort with the State of North Carolina, Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and RTI International.
EDUCATING TOMORROW’S LEADERS

Margolis Seminars—weekly, Duke-Margolis convenes more than 100 faculty, researchers, and students in an open discussion that informs actions and next steps to address COVID-19

Margolis Scholars and Post-Doctoral Students—their academic scholarship is directly applied in real time to advance Duke-Margolis recommendations and guidance on COVID-19

Duke Undergraduates and 2020 Summer Interns—actively extending the nationally and globally vital work of Duke-Margolis, they, by working closely with faculty and research mentors on timely projects, help inform the overall impact of the Center on the world’s response

Course Development—development of new online learning modules examining recent and proposed reforms in health care practices and policies to improve the value of health care in the time of COVID-19

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC

Duke-Margolis Policymaker Briefings & Presentations—dissemination of Center research to inform and guide Federal and state policymakers on COVID-19, including presentations and technical assistance to:
- North Carolina General Assembly and executive branch, and other state and local governments
- Bi-partisan congressional members and committee staff
- Non-profit organizations, including Commonwealth Club, Alliance for Health Policy, Bay Area Science, Milken Institute, Research!America

Webinars—virtual presentations featuring experts and industry leaders to explore solutions for:
- Building COVID Diagnostic Capacity Now and for the Future, engaging more than 500 participants on March 31
- Developing a Therapeutic Response to COVID-19, April 20

Partnerships—collaborations regularly with university and industry experts as well as consortiums of public and private sectors leaders to shape, inform, and broaden the reach of Duke-Margolis recommendations and research to bi-partisan policymakers at the local, state, and national levels


SUPPORT THE DUKE-MARGOLIS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Duke-Margolis is dedicated to improving health and the value of health care for all. Philanthropy from individuals, foundations, and corporations is critical to our ability to educate tomorrow’s health policy leaders and provide timely, evidence-based health policy solutions that affect how health care is delivered, financed, and regulated—in times of crisis and beyond. Gifts in the following priority areas are meaningful investments to our work to improve health and health care in communities in North Carolina, across the nation, and around the world:

Funding Priorities for COVID-19 Response

- Policy—support for applied research, policy analysis, and technical assistance to inform and guide policy reforms, on both specific timely specific topics and overall COVID-19 response strategies

- Students—support for classes, teaching, internships related to our work on COVID-19

- Outreach—support for disseminating timely policy updates and informing the public related to COVID-19

Ongoing Center Support

Duke-Margolis is grateful for contributions that uphold the Center’s core mission, including: financial support for students at every level from undergraduates to Scholars and post-doctoral; faculty support, including fellowships and professorships that recruit and retain health policy experts at Duke; funding for innovative research and policy analysis to advance in value health care; support for meetings and symposia that convene eminent and diverse leaders to interpret evidence and develop reform proposals; and unrestricted support which allows the Center to be nimble in addressing timely challenges like COVID-19.

For more information about Duke-Margolis work on COVID, contact Morgan Romine, morgan.romine@duke.edu.
To support the Duke-Margolis response to COVID, contact Shannon Reavis, shannon.reavis@duke.edu

healthpolicy.duke.edu