

Covid and Primary Care

Past, Present, and Future

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What We'll Cover

- Impact of Covid on Primary Care Spring of 2020
- Where is Primary Care now Fall of 2020
- What is the future

Insert Poll here

- Assess where people are at
 - All is good
 - We are prepared for the future
 - I am worried about the future

Spring 2020

- Confusion
- Shut down
- Rapid Adjustments
 - Flexibility and filling holes

Confusion and Shut Down

- Closure
 - Elective Surgeries
- Healthcare
 - Epidemiology
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment

Rapid Adjustment

- Telehealth
 - Rules and Regulations
 - Payment
- Adaptive Delivery
 - Parking Lot care
- Flexing coverage
 - Inpatient and Outpatient

Where are we now

- Primary Care
- People
- The economy

Insert Poll here

- Primary care is back on its feet
- People are getting the care they need
- Staffing and supplies are adequate

Primary Care is hurting

- Has primary care rebounded?
- Is Staffing Solid?

Information courtesy of the Larry Green Center

And the answers are:

- Has Primary Care Rebounded?

- 97% of clinicians disagree
- 1 in 3 clinicians report ***FFS volume is 30-50% below pre-pandemic levels and likely to be for a while***
- 81% disagreed emphatically with the notion that primary care has rebounded
 - “It’s going to take over a year to bounce back... the upcoming surges may extend that. My salary has already gone down 13% because of the pandemic.” South Dakota
- 33% work longer hours to make up for losses but still are not near pre-pandemic levels
- 13% said things are better but still struggle to meet patient needs; feel overwhelmed by the pending flu season
 - “In July, our volumes had rebounded nicely. However, a rebound in COVID-19 case in late July and August turned into a near crippling decline in patient volume.” Oregon

Is Staffing solid?

- 49% of clinicians report *mental exhaustion* from work *at an all-time high*
- 33% have empty staff positions they cannot fill; 23% have empty clinical positions they cannot fill
- 38% have staff with limited time due to child/elder care needs; 30% report the same for clinicians
- 1 in 3 practices consistently have trouble getting PPE; another 1 in 3 struggles to get COVID-19 testing supplies
- 1 in 5 practices experience a combination of 6 or more staffing and financial pressures

People are hurting

- NPR survey
 - Are American's on a sure footing?
- MMWR
 - What is happening with routine care

Americans are struggling

The economy is likely to get worse

- Hospitals
- Service Economy

What might the future look like?

- Washington State, the future is now
- Nationally
- Educationally

Telehealth Parity

- 2020 Legislative Session
 - Senate Bill 5385
 - reimbursing for telemedicine services at the same rate as in person
 - Problems
 - Telehealth is defined as Video and Audio
 - Federal issues – home, state borders
 - HIPPA Compliant Communication

Larry Green Survey

- The primary care system is fragile and shrinking as we enter the start of cold and flu season. Practices need state, federal, and private sector leadership to address disruptions to primary care funding and supply chains to safeguard the health of the public

Education

- Health Professions
- Practitioners
- Legislature

Questions

- Resources
 - Larry Green Center
 - <https://www.green-center.org/>
 - <https://www.green-center.org/covid-survey>
 - WSMA
 - https://wsma.org/WSMA/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19_Response.aspx?hkey=958ce791-54b8-4eba-892f-54924db26b60&WebsiteKey=c182ff6d-1438-4899-abc5-614681b54927
 - Telehealth, Reimbursement, Testing