

deadlines, leading to clinical staff being diverted from patient care to meet reporting needs.

Conclusion: The study shows significant reporting barriers and diversion of resources away from the frontline to supply data collection during disasters. There is significant redundancy in reporting agencies and in reporting systems, each with different reporting frequencies, and variable definitions of data elements. The public health needs of a disaster response would be better served with a more coordinated, efficient system to share information without further straining the healthcare system.

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The Usage of a COVID-19 Contact Tracing Electronic Platform in Greece: Exploring Opportunities, Challenges, and Data on SARS-CoV-2 Infectivity.

Angeliki Bistaraki PhD¹, Nikolaos Stefanopoulos PhD²,
Sotirios Roussos MSc³, Vana Sypsa PhD³

1. Ministry of Digital Governance, Athens, Greece
2. University of Patras, Patras, Greece
3. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Introduction: Contact tracing is a core public health tool used to interrupt the transmission of pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2. To increase the effectiveness of contact tracing, Greek health authorities used an electronic platform to aid traditional manual contact tracing to track individuals who have come in close contact with identified COVID-19 patients.

Method: Contact tracing was implemented from the beginning of the pandemic in Greece. The aim was to identify and quarantine all the contacts of confirmed cases. The electronic database was designed following all the security protocols and national regulations on the use and protection of personal data. To assess factors associated with infectivity and susceptibility to infection in this analysis, we used contact tracing data with a sampling date between October 1 to December 9, 2020.

Results: During the sampling period, 29,385 laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases and 64,608 traced contacts were identified. A median number of two persons were traced per index case. The secondary attack rate was 17.4% (95% CI: 17.0–17.8). Contacts aged 0–11 and 12–17 years were less susceptible to infection than adults 65 years or older (odds ratio (OR) [95% CI]: 0.28 [0.26–0.32] and 0.44 [0.40–0.49], respectively). Index cases aged 65 years or older were more likely to infect their contacts than other adults or children/adolescents.

Conclusion: Contact tracing is a key strategy to interrupt chains of transmission and to promote early diagnosis. The data collected in this process could be used to estimate epidemiological parameters of interest and to better understand factors associated with infection and susceptibility to infection. Precautions are necessary for individuals 65 or older as they have higher infectivity and susceptibility in contact with their peers.

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The Potential Environmental Implications of Infection Control Prevention During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Waste Generation from a Level 2 Trauma Center in Maine, USA.

Kelly Klein MD¹, Deborah Saber PhD, RN², Jennifer Trumbo MS,MPH¹, Astha Kakkad MD, MSPH³

1. Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, USA
2. University of Maine, Orono, USA
3. Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, USA

Introduction: Hospital waste in the United States (US) generates 7,000 tonnes of waste daily. During the pandemic, hospitals had to increase the amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) worn by healthcare providers. The aim of this study was to compare pre and present COVID-19 waste generation amounts in comparison with hospital census and PPE purchased.

Method: This research examined the solid waste generated at a level II trauma center from January 2018–December 2021. Data examined included: the amount of solid waste generated, monthly patient census, COVID-19 census, policy changes, and the amount of purchased PPE pre and during the pandemic.

Results: PPE product numbers purchased varied with a noticeable increase in mask and gown ordering. The number of admitted COVID-19 patients peaked at 46. Hospital waste tonnage fluctuated but did not show a statistically significant change.

Conclusion: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused hospitals to increase their PPE posture to help safeguard its employees and patients. In our hospital setting, the use of PPE increased and overall hospital census decreased. This has profound implications for not only the hospital's revenue, but also with less census volume, there was curiously the same amount of hospital waste generated. This work needs to be continued in other healthcare PPE heavy settings, to better understand the downstream consequences of infectious diseases on responsible hospital waste management and environmental sustainability.

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Not Just a Vaccination. Provision of Public Health, Environmental, and Social Needs in an Austere Environment in Miami, Florida

Deborah Kim MSN, CHEP
Mier Group, Chicago, USA

Introduction: The recently approved COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 provided a glimmer of hope to all people who had isolated, or lost loved ones to the SARS-COVID-19 virus. Clinics were rapidly established in non-traditional settings in order to meet the need in the early phases of the vaccination program. Contractor support provided rapid personnel support to meet