



# Updates to COVID-19 Testing and Treatment for the Current SARS-CoV-2 Variants

## Overview

As SARS-CoV-2 variants evolve, circulating variants have increased transmissibility and ability to evade the immune system, which changes the treatment and prevention options for COVID-19. Clinicians should understand the nuances of current SARS-CoV-2 testing and treatment to prevent hospitalizations and deaths among people at high risk of severe disease.

During this COCA Call, subject matter experts will provide an overview of COVID-19 epidemiology and the current variant landscape, address current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention testing guidance and the National Institutes of Health and Infectious Disease Society of America COVID-19 treatment guidelines, and discuss risk assessment and considerations for treatment options.

If you are unable to attend the live COCA Call, the recording will be available for viewing on the [COCA Call webpage](#) a few hours after the live event ends.

The slide set will be available on the day of the call on the [COCA Call webpage](#) under Call Materials.



**Date:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

**Webinar Link:**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618473235?pwd=ZWg2RHhwU0FJcEJpWkYyRlB4Wk94Zz09>

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Continuing Education will not be offered for this COCA Call.

Registration is not required.

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## COCA Call Objectives

1. Cite background information on the topic covered during the presentation.
2. Discuss CDC's role in the topic covered during the presentation.
3. Describe the topic's implications for clinicians.
4. Discuss concerns and/or issues related to preparedness for and/or response to urgent public health threats.
5. Promote health improvement, wellness, and disease prevention in cooperation with patients, communities, at-risk populations, and other members of an interprofessional team of healthcare providers.

## Presenters

**Pragna Patel, MD, MPH**

CAPT, U.S. Public Health Service  
Chief Medical Officer  
COVID-19 Response  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Natalie Thornburg, PhD**

Branch Chief of Lab Branch (Acting)  
Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division (Proposed)  
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Rajesh T. Gandhi, MD**

Director, HIV Clinical Services and Education  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Co-Director, Harvard Center for AIDS Research  
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

**Adarsh Bhimraj, MD, FIDSA**

Chair, Infectious Disease Society of America COVID-19 Treatment and Management Guidelines

Director, Infectious Diseases Fellowship and Education

Houston Methodist Academic Medicine Associates

Infectious Diseases Fellowship & Education

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- [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#)—resources for healthcare providers
- [COCA RSS Feed](#)—subscribe to be notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers
- [Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication Training](#)—training program that draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication
- [Health Alert Network](#)—CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories



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1600 Clifton Rd Atlanta, GA 30329 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: 888-232-6348

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