

**MSDC Covid-19 Task Force Notes**  
**April 16, 2020, 5 PM ET**

1. The Task Force meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM ET. Present were Alan Cashell, Ashesh Patel, Donald O’Kieffe, Laurie Duncan, EW Emanuel, Alice Fuisz, Joe Gutierrez, Kirstiaan Nevin, Desiree Pineda, Ray Scalettar (CHAIR), Theresa Stone, and Tenesha Moody; and Robert Hay (staff)
2. The Task Force discussed the following items and made the following recommendations:

Issue	Discussion Items	Recommendation
COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There are numerous testing options between the Public Health Lab and private labs</li> <li>✓ Each lab has different tests and different times for results</li> <li>✓ Because results are reported differently we lack good epidemiological data</li> </ul>	
PPE and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ No one knows how many physicians are COVID positive</li> <li>✓ No one knows how many physicians working with patients have been tested</li> <li>✓ Outside groups and individuals want to donate equipment but there are concerns on how to collect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MSDC ask the Mayor to support the ability for physicians to self-refer for testing</li> <li>✓ MSDC to support independent priority testing sites for physicians</li> </ul>
Vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There is unused indoor space in the District and populations that need stable space</li> <li>✓ Long term care facilities are high risk areas for outbreaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MSDC should support efforts to house displaced populations in underutilized spaces</li> <li>✓ MSDC supports long term care facilities and staff being treated as priority areas for testing and equipment</li> </ul>
Mortality rate in African American population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Systematic issues (unconscious bias, racial disparity, poor local environment) disadvantage African Americans during the epidemic</li> <li>✓ Social determinants of health drive up mortality rate</li> <li>✓ Messaging from government focuses more on a white upper/middle class population</li> <li>✓ Wards 7 and 8 have few primary care physicians or small practices to serve as a contact point for sick residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MSDC to aggressively promote its infographic on healthier lifestyles to prevent COVID-19 deaths</li> <li>✓ MSDC to work closely with physicians practicing in Wards 7 and 8</li> <li>✓ MSDC to advocate for health resources and easy testing (e.g., testing not needing a car) in Wards 7 and 8</li> </ul>

MSDC Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MSDC is doing work but it's not making it into the mainstream news</li> <li>✓ MSDC information stays on internal resources not external ones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MSDC to aggressively publicize the Task Force's work</li> <li>✓ MSDC to get its information in front of media sources daily</li> <li>✓ MSDC to create more infographics to distribute on priorities</li> <li>✓ MSDC to update its social media accounts daily</li> </ul>
IMG and licensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There are physicians wanting to come into the District to help but aren't being licensed due to international status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MSDC to push DC Health or Board of Medicine to loosen requirements around IMG</li> </ul>
Medical students and residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The status of medical education leaves students uncomfortable about their future in profession</li> <li>✓ Implications of graduating doctors early is unknown</li> </ul>	
Economic impacts on the practice of medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Physician practices are closing, smaller practices are scaling back, and there is little capital available to keep them open</li> <li>✓ Hospitals are hemorrhaging money in preparing for COVID-19</li> </ul>	

3. The Task Force agreed to meet next Thursday at 5 PM. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM ET.