



**NEWS RELEASE  
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**AAAHC Aligns Standards with New Resource  
Providing COVID-19 Guidance on College Campuses**  
*Student Health Centers Advised to Update Emergency  
Preparedness and Infection Prevention Controls*

(Skokie, Ill.) May 11, 2020 – In concert with the American College Health Association (ACHA) and its appointed COVID-19 Task Force, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) is advising student health centers to follow new guidance to advance the health and wellness of college students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, ACHA released recommendations to help student health centers limit the spread of infection throughout college campuses. AAAHC has published a complementary tool which crosswalks ACHA guidelines and AAAHC Standards to manage student health and wellness within the COVID-19 era.

The recommendations from the ACHA COVID-19 Task Force are based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and align with AAAHC Standards, reinforcing the development of an infection prevention plan, appropriate pre-screening measures, and proper use of personal protective equipment.

“These guidelines will serve as a foundational resource for student health services as they develop, implement, and evaluate emergency preparedness plans and infection control processes for the upcoming school year,” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. “Accredited organizations are uniquely poised to address the COVID-19 pandemic, given their emphasis on quality improvement every day.”

Aligning AAAHC Standards with the recommendations from ACHA also helps student health centers conduct a gap analysis as they review their emergency preparedness plans and infection prevention and control measures. The newly released information complements previous educational presentations by AAAHC, including recent webinars and other online resources related to the COVID-19 health crisis.

“Our collective goal is to establish processes and procedures that will limit the spread of COVID-19 on campuses nationwide,” said Devin Jopp, Ed.D., CEO of ACHA. “These joint efforts to provide thoughtful and actionable guidance will help student health services as they welcome back their patient populations.”

In addition to the emergency preparedness and infection prevention recommendations, the ACHA COVID-19 Task Force and AAAHC are providing telehealth guidelines, which address procedural measures and proper credentialing. Standards also address behavioral health for student health providers beginning to offer such services for the first time.

To access this new guidance and other resources to support infection prevention efforts, visit [https://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/2019\\_Novel\\_Coronavirus\\_2019-nCoV.aspx](https://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/2019_Novel_Coronavirus_2019-nCoV.aspx) or [www.aaahc.org/covid-19](http://www.aaahc.org/covid-19).

### **About AAAHC**

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,100 organizations accredited. We accredit a wide range of outpatient settings, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery facilities, endoscopy centers, student health centers, medical and dental group practices, community health centers, employer-based health clinics, retail clinics, and Indian/Tribal health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high-quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally recognized standards. We provide a valuable survey experience founded on a peer-based, educational approach to on-site review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation demonstrates an organization's commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation cycle. It is recognized by third-party payers, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC, please visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org).

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