

runners), and the need to cluster care affected the quality of care. A nurse working in the intensive care unit (ICU) lamented, “We were sometimes given 4–5 ICU patients who were very sick and required a lot of care. Shortcuts had to be taken to prioritize the most important needs. Sometimes IVs remained longer than desired. Foleys remained in longer. To avoid PPE shortages, we didn’t go into the rooms nearly as much as we normally would, [and] things got missed.” Feelings of being overwhelmed and helpless permeated the nurses’ comments. **Conclusions:** When caring for COVID-19 patients, frontline nurses struggled with adherence to necessary patient safety protocols, which ultimately disrupted care delivery. Future research should quantify the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic affected care delivery, including adherence to patient safety protocols among frontline providers.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness Among Acute-Care Registered Nurses in New Jersey: Results of a Statewide Survey

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Background: The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine is an important intervention to control the COVID-19 pandemic. As the most trusted profession integral to providing care to patients across all care settings, nurses play a critical role in educating patients regarding the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. However, little is known about the readiness of registered nurses (RNs) to receive the vaccine. **Methods:** In October 2020, prior to FDA approval of vaccines, we conducted a cross-sectional electronic survey of all active registered nurses in the state of New Jersey. The eligibility criteria included providing direct patient care in a New Jersey hospital in an emergency or an adult inpatient unit during the emergence of COVID-19 (March 2020). **Results:** In total, 3,027 RNs completed the survey (15% response rate). When asked whether they plan to get vaccinated, 27% of RNs responded yes, 30% responded no, and 43% were undecided. Among those RNs who reported that they were planning to get vaccinated, their main reasons for their willingness to receive the vaccine included (1) wanting to protect themselves and their families (95%), (2) wanting to protect the community at large (76%), wanting to protect their patients (75%), the belief that life won’t get back to normal until most people are vaccinated (72%), and the belief that getting vaccinated is the best way to avoid getting seriously ill from COVID-19 (67%). The main reasons reported for not planning to or being undecided about getting vaccinated included the belief that the vaccine will likely be developed too quickly to be safe (81%) and concern about the side effects from the vaccine (74%). RNs also reported being in a low-risk group for becoming seriously ill (12%) and having had COVID-19 (8%) as reasons for planning not to get vaccinated. In open-ended responses, participants also discussed several additional issues driving vaccine hesitancy: their lack of trust in the political process, planning to become pregnant or currently pregnant or breastfeeding, questions about effectiveness of the vaccine and long-term side effects, and the need for more information before making a decision. **Conclusions:** This cross-sectional study of all acute-care RNs in the State of New Jersey was conducted prior to the FDA approval of COVID-19 vaccines. The results outline factors driving vaccine hesitancy among RNs. Although vaccine efficacy data and approval by the FDA may have alleviated some of these fears, immunization programs for healthcare workers and the public should focus on dispelling myths about vaccine development and side effects.

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Optimizing COVID-19 Symptom Screening in the Pediatric Population

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Background: Research analyzing COVID-19 symptom screening has primarily focused on adult patients. In efforts to safely reopen schools, symptom screeners are being widely utilized. However, pediatric-specific outpatient data on which symptom combinations best identify children with COVID-19 are lacking. Such data could refine school symptom screening by improving screener sensitivity and specificity. In this study, we assessed the frequency of symptoms and symptom combinations in children tested for SARS-CoV-2 in outpatient settings. We aim to contribute to the optimization of pediatric COVID-19 screening questionnaires, to ultimately minimize both COVID-19 transmission in schools and missed school days. **Methods:** We conducted a retrospective analysis of outpatient symptoms screens, SARS-CoV-2 test results, and demographics of children (≤ 18 years) tested for SARS-CoV-2 between March 30 and November 30, 2020, at 3 UCSF-affiliated COVID-19 outpatient screening clinics in northern California. Those with incomplete symptom screens, >7 days between symptom documentation and test, and invalid test results were excluded. **Results:** Of 473 children tested at 1 site, 21 children had positive SARS-CoV-2 results and 452 children had negative results (4.4% positivity rate). Moreover, 85.7% of SARS-CoV-2-positive children had a known exposure to COVID-19 (Table 1). Of SARS-CoV-2-positive children, 61.9% had >1 symptom. Also, 52.4% of SARS-CoV-2-positive children had at least 1 symptom (fever, cough, or loss of taste or smell) versus 62.8% of SARS-CoV-2-negative children (Table 2). Runny nose or nasal congestion was the most frequently reported symptom in the SARS-CoV-2-positive group (47.6%) as well as the SARS-CoV-2-negative group (58.6%). Also, 14.3% of SARS-CoV-2-positive children had eye redness or discharge versus 3.1% of SARS-CoV-2-negative children. Isolated runny

Table 1. Demographics of 1 site cohort

Characteristics	Positive SARS-CoV-2 Result (N=21)	Negative SARS-CoV-2 Result (N=452)
Sex, female (%)	61.9%	45.1%
Age, yrs (med, IQR)	4 (11)	4 (6)
Age Group*	—	—
Age 0-4 yr	52.4%	94.7%
Age 5-10 yr	4.8%	25.0%
Age 11-13	14.3%	8.4%
Age 14-18	28.6%	11.7%
Ethnicity (%)	—	—
Hispanic or Latino	28.6%	17.9%
Not Hispanic or Latino	66.7%	77.9%
Unknown/Declined	4.8%	4.2%
Race (%)	—	—
White	52.4%	52.2%
Other	23.8%	16.8%
Asian	9.5%	19.2%
Black or African American	4.8%	5.8%
Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, or American Indian	4.8%	1.1%
Unknown/Declined	4.8%	4.9%
Language Preference (%)*	—	—
English	90.5%	98.7%
Spanish	9.5%	0.4%
Other	0.0%	0.9%

*Chi-square test $p < 0.05$