March 19, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), is a newly emerging zoonotic agent initially identified in December 2019 that causes the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), formerly known as the 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019nCoV). Infection with COVID-19 is associated with significant morbidity especially in patients with chronic medical conditions. Based on a recently published systematic review of the literature in which I am a co-author of the study, at least one fifth of infected cases require supportive care in medical intensive care units. Equally concerning is the fact that despite the implementation of optimal supportive interventions, case fatality rate among hospitalized patients is more than 10 percent.

As an infectious disease clinician with a public health degree in the dynamics of infectious diseases epidemics and pandemics, I am concerned about the treatment of immigrants inside detention centers which could make the current COVID-19 epidemic worse in the U.S. by having a high case fatality rate among detainees and potentially spreading the outbreak into the larger community. This epidemic has the potential to become the Coming Prison Plague.

Experience Working with People in DHS Custody

I have experience providing care to individuals in a civil detention center and have performed approximately two medical forensic examinations and fifteen medical second opinion evaluations for patients in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security. Based on my conversations with patients, my own observations, and information that exists regarding the resources available within immigration detention facilities as detailed by the ICE Health Services Corps, it is my professional opinion that the medical care available in DHS custody cannot properly accommodate the needs of patients should there be an outbreak of COVID-19 in an immigration detention facility.

Persons Considered High Risk

People who are considered at high risk of severe illness and death should they be infected with the coronavirus include the following:
People age 50 or older

Anyone diagnosed with cancer, autoimmune disease (including lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, Sjogren’s, Crohn’s), chronic lung disease (including asthma, COPD, bronchiectasis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis), history of cardiovascular disease (MI), chronic arthritis (rheumatoid, psoriatic), chronic liver or kidney disease, diabetes, hypertension, heart failure, HIV, chronic steroids to treat chronic conditions

People with a history of smoking

I can also certify that many of the detainees from the Aurora Immigration detention facility that I have cared for as an infectious diseases clinician either at the infectious diseases clinic and inpatient hospital services of the Anschutz Medical Center of the University of Colorado or while performing second opinion evaluations within the Aurora detention facility have chronic medical conditions that place them at high risk of developing severe coronavirus disease and potentially dying from this infection. Some of these medical conditions include HIV/AIDS, uncontrolled diabetes mellitus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and other conditions. Many of them are also malnourished due to poorly nutritional diets.

Risk Factors Present in Immigration Detention

Detention of any kind allows for large groups of people to be held together in a confined space and creates the worst type of setting for curbing the spread of a highly contagious infection such as COVID-19. Under the current circumstances, incomplete adherence to infection prevention protocols including the appropriate use of personal protective equipment is insufficient to contain the spread of this disease.

In order to adequately contain any type of outbreak, there must be sufficient resources allocated to determining the risk of infection. Namely, the facility should be testing people who are symptomatic in order to determine whether they have COVID-19. Based on news reports, it is my understanding that DHS is not testing people in its custody. The effective institution of interventions to mitigate an outbreak will fail without having the ability to test those infected inside detention centers.

Should an outbreak occur, the number of isolation rooms in a given detention facility is insufficient to comply with the recommended airborne/droplet isolation guidelines. Another important consideration that complicates disinfection and decontamination practices in detention facilities is the ability of this coronavirus to survive in aerosol and metal surfaces which are highly prevalent security materials. The current outbreak requires multiple routine disinfection and decontamination of all surfaces of the facility. With a large population of detainees and staff coming in and out of any given facility, it is highly unlikely to maintaining optimal infection prevention practices.
Responding to this outbreak calls for highly-trained staff to correctly institute and enforce isolation and quarantine procedures, and to have the training to wear personal protective equipment. It is required that during the outbreak, sufficient nursing and medical staff need to be trained in infection control prevention practices, in implementing triage protocols, and adequate training in the medical management of suspect, probable and confirmed cases of coronavirus infection. This same personnel would have to initiate the management of those with severe disease. Since these are closed facilities, the number of exposed, infected, and ill detainees may prove to rapidly overwhelm staff and resources within a detention center. As a result, many patients would need transfer to hospitals near detention centers potentially overwhelming surrounding healthcare systems which are already functioning at full-capacity caring for the general community.

**Likely Outcome if COVID-19 Spreads in Immigration Detention**

Given the large population density of immigration detention centers, and the ease of transmission of this viral pathogen, the attack rate may take exponential proportions. Behind the walls of a detention center, the basic reproductive rate of the infection ($R_{0} = 2$) may be responsible for infecting between 30-50% of detainees and staff within a facility. Of these one-fifth will require hospital admission, and about 10% will develop severe disease requiring intensive care unit. For an immigration detention center that holds 1500 detainees, we can estimate that 500-650 may acquire the infection. Of these, 100 to 150 individuals may develop severe disease potentially requiring admission to an intensive care unit. Of these, 10-15 individuals may die from respiratory failure. The cost of care of in the intensive care unit is in the order of $5000 to $8,000 dollars per day for those requiring mechanical ventilation.

**Risk Minimization Through Release from Detention**

In contrast, releasing those in the high risk age groups and those with underlying medical conditions with lessen the impact of an outbreak of COVID-19. The main reason is that those in these groups at risk carry the highest concentration of virus in their respiratory secretions and act as human incubators of the virus. Additionally, by having a reduced number of people and held together in a confined space, there is a reduced number of networks of transmission of the infection. This intervention is the public interest since the release people from detention will minimize the number of people infected with COVID-19 that may potentially spread to the surrounding communities around detention centers.

**Conclusion**

Besides the humanitarian premise and the moral justification for the release of detainees in the midst of the ongoing epidemic in the U.S., the potential medical impact that COVID-19 may produce among detainees may become devastating and require major financial
investment by ICE. Therefore, anticipating the impact of this epidemic inside immigration detention facilities justifies exploring alternative strategies to reduce its impact in U.S. soil. The prompt release on parole of detainees with medical conditions at risk of severe disease and death due to coronavirus infection may reduce the impact of this outbreak among detention facilities. This intervention may also effectively reduce the potential spillover of the outbreak from a detention center into the community.

Sincerely,

Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH, DTMH (Gorgas)
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
Department of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
Program Director Infectious Disease Fellowship
Training Program, University of Colorado
Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

Revised: 03/16/2020

PERSONAL INFORMATION
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U.S. Citizen and Mexican Citizen
Languages: English and Spanish

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION AND ACTIVITIES:
• Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus and Infectious Diseases (July 2018 - ongoing).
• Fellowship Program Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus (March 2019- ongoing).

EDUCATION
1989 -1995  M.D. - La Salle University School of Medicine, Mexico City, Mexico
1996-1999  Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals, Atlanta, GA
1999-2002  Fellowship in Infectious Diseases, Emory University School of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals, Atlanta, GA
1999-2002  Fellow in AIDS International Training and Research Program, NIH Fogarty Institute, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
1999 - 2002  Masters Degree in Public Health (M.P.H.) Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Global Health Track
2001-2002  Chief Medical Resident, Grady Memorial Hospital, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
2006  Diploma Course in Tropical Medicine, Gorgas. University of Alabama, Birmingham and Universidad Cayetano Heredia, Lima Peru

CERTIFICATIONS
1999-Present  Diplomate in Internal Medicine American Board of Internal Medicine
(Recertification 11/2010-11/2020)
2001-present  Diplomate in Infectious Diseases, American Board of Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases Subspecialty
(Recertification 04/2011-04/2021)
2005-present  Travel Medicine Certification by the International Society of Travel Medicine
2007-present  Tropical Medicine Certification by the American Society of Tropical Medicine – Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTMH - Gorgas)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:
Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

- 2002 - 2004 - Advisor to the Director of the National Center for Child and Adolescent Health and of the National Immunization Council (NIP), Ministry of Health Mexico; my activities included critical review of current national health plans on vaccination, infectious diseases, soil-transmitted helminthic control programs; meningococcal disease outbreaks in the jail system, an outbreak of imported measles in 2003-2004 and bioterrorism and influenza pandemic preparedness. I represented the NIP at meetings of the Global Health Security Action Group preparation of National preparedness and response plans for Mexico

- 2005 – 2011 - Co-Director Travel Well Clinic, Emory University
  Emory Midtown Hospital

- 2004- 8/2009 - Assistant Professor of Medicine
  Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
  Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta GA


- 9/2009- 3/2011 Associate Professor of Medicine
  Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
  Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta GA

- 1/2007 – 3/2011 Assistant Professor of Public Health
  Hubert Department of Global Health
  Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta GA

- 4/2011 –5/2013 - Associate Professor of Public Health in Global Health
  Hubert Department of Global Health
  Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta GA

- 2010 - WHO HQ Consultant for a 4-month-period on the Deployment of H1N1 influenza vaccine in the African Region, Jan to March 2010, Switzerland Geneva, WHO HQ 2010
  sponsored by John Snow Inc. USAID, Washington, D.C.


- 3/2011- 5/2017 - Phoebe Physician Group –Infectious Diseases Clinician Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Albany, GA.


- June 19, 2017–June 31, 2018–Visiting Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus

- June 2004- present - Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Clinical Research, Hospital Infantil de México, Federico Gómez, México City, México. Investigador Nacional Nivel II, Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (12/2019); SNI III Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (1/2020-); Investigador Clínico Nivel E, Sistema Nacional de Hospitales

HONORS AND AWARDS

2
Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

1995  Top Graduating Student, La Salle School of Medicine  
1997  Award for Academic Excellence in Internal Medicine, EUSM  
1999  Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) House staff Officer, EUSM  
2002  Pillar of Excellence Award. Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness  
      Communicable Disease Prevention Branch, Atlanta GA  
2002  Emory University Humanitarian Award for extraordinary service in Leadership  
      Betterment of the Human Condition the Emory University Rollins School of Public  
      Health  
2002  Winner of the Essay Contest on the Health of Developing Countries:  
      Causes and Effects in Relation to Economics or Law, sponsored by the Center for  
      International Development at Harvard University and the World Health  
      Organization Commission on Macroeconomics Health with the essay "Infectious  
      Diseases, Non-zero Sum Thinking and the Developing World"  
2002  “James W. Alley” Award for Outstanding Service to Disadvantaged Populations,  
      Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University May 2002. Received during  
      Commencement Ceremony Graduation to obtain the Degree of Masters in Public  
      Health  
2006  Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, Emory University, School of Med  
2006  Best Conference Award Conference, “Juha Kokko” Best Conference  
      Department of Medicine, EUSM  
2007  “Jack Shulman” Award Infectious Disease fellowship, Excellence in Teaching  
      Award, Division of Infectious Diseases, EUSM  
2007  Emerging Threats in Public Health: Pandemic Influenza CD-ROM, APHA’s Public  
      Health Education and Health Promotion Section, Annual Public Health Materials  
      Contest award  
2009  National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases.  
      Honor Award Certificate for an exemplary partnership in clinical and  
      epidemiologic monitoring of illness related to international travel. NCPDCID  
      Recognition Awards Ceremony, April 2009. CDC, Atlanta, GA  
2012  The ISTM Awards Committee, directed by Prof. Herbert  
      DuPont, selected the article "Rethinking typhoid fever  
      vaccines" in the Journal of Travel Medicine (Best Review Article)  
2012  Best Clinical Teacher. Albany Family Medicine Residency Program  
2018  Outstanding Educator Award – Infectious Diseases Fellowship, Division of  
      Infectious Diseases, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center, Aurora  
      Colorado

EDITORSHIP AND EDITORIAL BOARDS

2007-Present  Deputy/Associate Editor PLoS Neglected Tropical Disease  
              Public Library of Science  
2017-2018  Deputy Editor, Annals of Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobials  
              BMC  
2007-2019  Core Faculty International AIDS Society-USA -Travel and Tropical Medicine/HIV/AIDS

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

2018-  Member of the Examination Committee of the International Society of Travel Medicine.
Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

Developing Examination Questions and Proctoring the Certificate in Traveler’s Health Examination
Proctor Certificate of Traveler’s Health Examination (CTH) as part of the International Society of Travel Medicine—12th Asia-Pacific Travel Health Conference, Thailand 21-24 March 2019
Proctor Certificate of Traveler’s Health Examination (CTH), Atlanta, GA, September, 2019

PRESENTATIONS AT NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS
2017- Meeting of the Colombian Society of Infectious Diseases, August 2017:
Discussion of Clinical Cases Session, Influenza, MERS-Coronavirus, Leprosy, Enteric Fever
2018 – Cutaneous Mycobacterial Diseases, Universidad Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru, Mayo 2018
2018 – Scientific Writing Seminar, ACIN, Pereira, Colombia, August 2-4, 2018
2019 – First International Congress of Tropical Diseases ACINTROP 2019. March 21, 2019, Monteria, Colombia, Topic: Leishmaniasis
2019 – One Health Symposium of Zoonoses, Pereira Colombia, August 16-17, 2019, Topic: Zoonotic Leprosy
2019 – Congress Colombian Association of Infectious Diseases (ACIN), Topic: Leprosy in Latin America, Cartagena, Colombia, August 21-24, 2019
2019 – FLAP. Federacion Latino Americana de Parasitologia, Panama, Panama, November 26, 2019, Oral Transmission of Leprosy Symposium
2019 – FLAP. Federacion Latino Americana de Parasitologia, Panama, Panama, November 27, 2019, Leprosy Situation in the Americas.

PUBLICATIONS
BOOKS

RESEARCH ORIGINAL ARTICLES (clinical, basic science, other) in refereed journals:
Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


41. Chastain DB, Henao-Martinez AF, Franco-Paredes C. A clinical pharmacist survey of prophylactic strategies used to prevent adverse events of lipid-associated formulations of amphotericin B. Infect Dis 2019;


RESEARCH ORIGINAL ARTICLES AS COLLABORATOR (clinical, basic science, other) in refereed journals:


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


**REVIEW, EDITORIALS, CASE SERIES, CASE REPORT ARTICLES:**


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


Rodríguez-Morales AJ. Brazil burning! What is the potential impact of the Amazon wildfires on vector-borne and zoonotic emerging diseases? - A statement from an international experts meeting. Travel Med Infect Dis. 2019:101474. doi: 10.1016/j.tmaid.2019.101474.


Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

(www.lancovid.org). Clinical, Laboratory and Imaging Features of COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Travel Med Infect Dis 2020;

BOOK CHAPTERS:


Franco-Paredes C. Illness and Death in the Universe. In: Narrative Medicine
Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH


FORMAL TEACHING

Medical Student Teaching

2001 - 2002 Clinical Methods, Emory University School of Medicine
2001 - 2002 Clinical Instructor Harvey Cardiology Course, Emory University School of Medicine
2001 - 2002 Problem-Based Learning for Second year Medical Students, EUSM
2005-2011 Clinical Methods Preceptor, ECLH
2006-2008 Medical Spanish - Instructor for M2, EUSM
2006-2007 Directed Study on Social Determinants of Infectious Diseases for M2 students (Lindsay Margolis and Jean Bendik), EUSM
2007-2011 Instructor - Global Health for M2 Students, EUSM
2007-2008 Presentation-Case Discussion – Social Determinants of Diseases – Coordinated by Dr. Bill Eley – Emory School of Medicine New Curriculum.
2018- Small Group: Parasitic Diseases, Microbiology Course for First Year Medical Students, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center.
2019- MS-2 Small group discussion Microbiology, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center: Parasitic Diseases, CNS Infections, Septic Arthritis-Cat Bite
2020- MS-2 Small group discussion Microbiology, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center: Parasitic Diseases, CNS Infections, Septic Arthritis-Cat Bite

Graduate Program

Training programs

2006-2011 Professor - GH511 (Global Health 511) International Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control, Rollins School of Public Health
2009-2011 Professor – GH500 D – Key Issues in Global Health, Career MPH Program
2006-2011 Thesis Advisor to students Global Health Track – Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University
2008-2011 Coordinator International Exchange between Rollins School of Public Health and National Institute of Public Health, Cuernavaca, Mexico – Supported by the Global Health Institute
Carlos Franco-Paredes, MD, MPH

Residency and Fellowship Program:
2004-2011 Resident Report – Noon Conferences Emory Crawford Long Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital
2004-2011 Didactic Lectures on Parasitic Diseases and Non-tuberculous mycobacterial diseases for Internal Medicine Residents and Infectious Disease Fellows
2005-2008 Coordinator Journal Club Infectious Disease Division
2005-2011 Travel Medicine Elective, Internal Medicine Residents (2 internal residents per month)
2005 Grand Rounds – EUH - Department of Medicine: “Travel Medicine”
2006 Grand Rounds – ECLH – Department of Medicine: “Malaria”
2008 Grand Rounds - ECLH – Department of Medicine: “Leprosy”
2008-2011 Journal Club Coordinator, Internal Medicine Residency Program – ECLH
2009 Grand Rounds - EUH – Department of Medicine: “Leprosy a Modern Perspective of an Ancient Disease”
2009 Grand Rounds – Pulmonary and Critical Care Division – Neglected Tropical Diseases of the Respiratory Tract, June 16, 2009
2017 Grand Rounds – Leprosy, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center, Division of Infectious Diseases, December 2017
2017 Grand Rounds – Infections associated with Secondary Antiphospholipid Syndrome, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center, Division of Rheumatology,
2018 Didactic Session – Travel Medicine (Pretravel and Potravel) Infectious Diseases Fellowship Anschutz Medical Center, Division of Infectious Diseases
2017- Infectious Diseases Fellows Clinic, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center, IDPG.
2019 Invited Speaker: Travel Medicine, Pretravel/Potravel Care, Physician Assistant Program, September 12, 2019, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center

Other categories:
2000-2002 Physician Assistant Supervision during Fellowship/Junior Faculty, Emory University
2004-2007 Mentoring of four College Students to enter into Medical School (Emory, Southern University, and Dartmouth):
Lindsay Margolis 2004-Emory University
Michael Woodworth 2005 – Emory University
Peter Manyang 2007 – Southern University
Padraic Chisholm 2007 – Southern University/Emory University
2009-2011 Project Leader. Partnership – Emory Global Health Institute – University-wide - Emory Travel Well Clinic and is titled Hansen’s disease in the state of Georgia: A Modern Reassessment of an Ancient Disease”.
http://www.globalhealth.emory.edu/fundingOpportunities/projectideas.php. Students: 5 MPH students (RN/MPH, MD/MPH)
2017- Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center. Teaching activities Inpatient and outpatient (ID Fellows Weekly Clinic)
2019- Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program Director University of Colorado, Aurora Colorado

Supervisory Teaching:
Ph.D. students directly supervised:

19
Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health - PhD Task Force Member – 2007-2009
Residency Program:
Emory University: Internal Medicine Residents and Infectious Disease Fellows Supervision – Inpatient Months – 3-4 months per year on Grady Wards. I participated in the presentation and discussion of clinical cases, and discussion of peer-reviewed journal with medical students, residents, and fellows.
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center (since June 2017- present). Case discussion in infectious diseases during clinical rounds inpatient services (ID Gold, ID Blue, ID Orthopedics).
2017 – Class GH511, Topic: “Leprosy” as part of the International Infectious Diseases, Global Health Track, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta GA
2019 - Project Mentorship – Diffuse lepromatous leprosy. Undergraduate Student, University of Colorado, Boulder. Mikali Ogbasellassie. Project was carried out in Collaboration with the Dermatology Center of the Hospital General de Mexico.
Poster presentation by Mikali Ogbassellassie September 22, 2019, UMBC, Baltimore, Maryland.