

## COVID-19: Updates, Hidden Health Risks of Social Isolation in Later Life & Pathways to a More Connected Future

Friday, January 8, 2021

8:50 am – 12:30 pm

By Zoom

8:15am - 8:50am	Registration
8:50am - 9:00am	Announcements and Welcome
9:05am - 9:25am	<i>“Update on Maryland Department of Aging Programs”</i> Ms. Bernice Hutchinson, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging
9:30am - 10:30am	<i>“COVID-19 Update on Transmission, and Vaccine Development”</i> Dr. Wilbur Chen
10:30am - 10:40am	Break
10:45am - 12:15pm	<i>“Social Isolation and Loneliness: Current Crisis, Future Opportunity”</i> Dr. Thomas Cudjoe
12:15pm to 12:30pm	Conference Evaluation and Wrap Up

**“COVID-19 Update on Transmission, Therapies, and Vaccine Development,” presented by Dr. Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, FACP, FISDA, University of Maryland School of Medicine:** The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 threatens human existence and society on all levels. Although the SARS-CoV-2 is a new virus, there are many lessons that have been learned from the past pandemics that have helped to predict the epidemiology of this present pandemic. There have also been numerous new lessons learned with COVID-19, among which the ease of transmission through “exhaled breath” presents a special consideration for the medical community. The use of traditional public health control measures, non-pharmaceutical interventions, must continue to be used while the world awaits COVID-19 vaccines to be available. Meanwhile, various therapies are under evaluation to provide improved outcomes for infected symptomatic patients. And, vaccines are being developed and evaluated at extraordinary speed. The pathway for COVID-19 vaccine development will be reviewed and the policy and decision making for the use of these vaccines will be discussed.



**Dr. Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, FACP, FISDA**

**Dr. Chen** is an adult infectious disease physician-scientist with a specific interest in clinical vaccinology. He is Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), Chief of the Adult Clinical Studies section within the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD, an organized research center of UMSOM), and Director of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Travel Medicine Practice. His research career has been focused on developing vaccines against pathogens of global health importance. Dr. Chen is active investigator within the NIAID-supported Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU) network, which is responsible for conducting high-priority vaccine trials for the government. He has been a principal investigator on a number of vaccine trials.

**“Social Isolation and Loneliness: Current Crisis, Future Opportunity,” presented by Dr. Thomas Cudjoe, MD, MPH, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine:** Discussion to include the state of the evidence regarding social connections and health, with special focus on the intersection and opportunities associated with social connection, COVID-19, and aging.



**Thomas K.M. Cudjoe, MD, MPH**

**Dr. Cudjoe** is an Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology and Core Faculty at the JHU Center on Aging and Health. He is board certified internal medicine and geriatric medicine. In addition, Dr. Cudjoe is a Major in the US Army Reserves, a participant in the inaugural cohort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders Program and serves on board of the East Baltimore Community School- Henderson Hopkins. In 2019, Dr. Cudjoe was appointed as a Commissioner to the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education. Dr. Cudjoe is actively engaged in the medical care of homebound older adults via the Johns Hopkins Home Based Medicine program. Dr. Cudjoe is a recipient of the National Institute on Aging Grants for Early Medical/Surgical Specialists' Transition to Aging Research. Dr. Cudjoe is focused on understanding how social factors influence the health of older adults and developing strategies to improve the health trajectory of older adults. His research has focused on identifying risk factors for social isolation and currently examines the relationship between social connections and health outcomes.



**Bernice Hutchinson, Deputy Secretary  
Maryland Department of Aging**

As Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging, Bernice Hutchinson leads the internal administration and management of the Department's day to day operations. She oversees the Department's programs and spending while developing essential partnerships to ensure a coordinated statewide delivery system that promotes choice, independence, and dignity for older Marylanders and their caregivers. She advocates to protect the rights and quality of life of older adults, most importantly to provide the services necessary to allow them to age at home and in their communities. Prior to joining the Maryland Department of Aging, she dedicated more than three decades to the field of aging. As a senior policy advisor she advised the nation's state government leaders, educated Congress, administered two national resource centers and was a frequent guest speaker at national, state, and local conferences. She has crossed the country and appeared before groups in nearly every state. She has authored technical works and served as a consultant and contributor on many works, including Nora Jean Levin's bestseller *How to Care for Your Parents: A Handbook for Adult Children*. She is a graduate of Williams College with a degree in psychology and honors in African American Studies. She has been married since 1982 and is the proud mother of a daughter who is a classical ballerina.

**PROGRAM PROVIDED by:**

- **Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research program, University of Maryland, Baltimore**
- **Johns Hopkins Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program**
- **Allegany College of Maryland**
- **Maryland Area Health Education Center West (AHEC West)**

**Sponsored by: Garrett County Orthopaedics**

**Upon completion of the training, participants should be able to:**

- Describe the primary means of transmission for COVID-19
- Understand some of the therapies established or under development for COVID-19
- Become familiar with the licensure pathway and policy making for COVID-19 vaccines
- Discuss the state of the evidence regarding social connections and health
- Discuss the intersection and opportunities associated with social connection, COVID-19, and Aging

**Continuing Education:**

**Social Workers:** AHEC West is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education programs and maintains full responsibility for this program. The training qualifies for three (3) Category I Continuing Education Units upon completion of the program.

**Psychologist:** A certificate for 3.0 CEUs will be awarded upon completion of this course. Allegany College of Maryland is authorized by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologist as a sponsor of Continuing Education.

**Professional Counselors:** A certificate for 3.0 CEUs will be awarded upon completion of this course. Allegany College of Maryland has been approved by the State Board of Examiners as an authorized sponsor who may provide Category A CEUs for certified professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and alcohol and drug counselors.

**All Certified Dementia Practitioners and Certified Senior Advisors:** 3.0 CEUs

**Certificate of Attendance** will be provided to all participants.

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**ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Students are FREE**

**Regular Admission \$25**

**Regular Admission with 3 Continuing Education Credits \$50**

**\*\*Payment is done via PayPal (you do not need to have a PayPal account to make payment)**

**\*\*Click here to register: <https://www.123formbuilder.com/form-5731492/form>**

**\*\*Questions: email [jbooth@ahecwest.org](mailto:jbooth@ahecwest.org) or [jtaylor@ahecwest.org](mailto:jtaylor@ahecwest.org)**

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