

K&L GATES

TRIAGE: COVID-19 AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



A Closer Look at the Disparate  
Impact of COVID-19 on Ethnic and  
Racial Minorities

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## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Social health determinants are defined as conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks

# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Some examples of social health determinants include:
  - Access to educational, economic, and job opportunities
  - Access to health care services
  - Quality of education and job training
  - Availability of community-based resources
  - Transportation options; and
  - Public safety

## COVID-19 DISPARATE IMPACT

- Federal data demonstrates that ethnic and racial minorities are contracting COVID-19 at higher rates and are more likely to die from the disease
  - Latino and African American residents of the U.S. have been three times as likely to become infected and twice as likely to die from the virus as white residents\*

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data through May 28, 2020

## COVID-19 DISPARATE IMPACT

- Health disparities during COVID-19 reflect two important patterns of inequity
  - First, racial and ethnic minorities have a high likelihood of contracting the virus
  - Second, racial and ethnic minorities experience higher rates of hospitalization and death

## RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- Some response plans to combat the disparate impact include:
  - Collection and analysis of disaggregated data to target resources to disproportionately impacted communities
  - Creation of health equity response teams that partner with communities of color and collaboratively address policies, programming and resources that are lacking
  - Increasing testing in disproportionately effected communities through mobile testing, telehealth centers, or other similar location-based solutions; and
  - Developing state COVID-19 recovery plans that account for the pandemic's disproportionate economic and health impacts on communities of color

# Today's Presenters



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## INDUSTRY

### HEALTH CARE SECTOR

Health care is a booming industry poised for dramatic growth and transformation. From health care providers and medical device manufacturers to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, every segment is on an upward climb. This is not a surprise given the massive demand for services and products. Health care spending has been steadily increasing annually and is on track to top US\$10 trillion.