

WorkCare Briefing: Preventing and Managing COVID-19 in the Workplace
Questions & Answers – Week 31
October 14, 2020

The following questions were asked during WorkCare’s weekly webinar series on Preventing and Managing COVID-19 in the Workplace – Week 31. This week we focused on global influences. Anthony Harris, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., WorkCare’s Chief Innovation Officer and Associate Medical Director - Onsite Clinical Operations, presented the webinar and provided these answers. If your question is not answered here, it was answered in a previous Q&A.

Here are links for your reference:

- [October 14 Webinar](#)
- [October 7 Webinar Recording](#)
- [Questions & Answers from the October 7 Webinar](#)

TREATMENT

Q: What type of steroid would have been given to President Trump for his treatment? The news described it as a “strong” steroid.

A: The president’s physicians reported that he was being treated with dexamethasone. It’s a steroid given particularly to individuals who are having respiratory immunological responses to help decrease that response. Essentially, your respiratory system gets overwhelmed with the immune response making it difficult to breathe. By decreasing that immune response, you can improve the ventilation of an individual. It’s something that is commonplace. In addition, regarding the Regeneron solution with a monoclonal antibody which we touched on last week – that cocktail has been in phase 1, 2, and 3 clinical trials by this company, and they have applied for emergency use authorization with the FDA for utilization in non-hospitalized individuals. It’s not a vaccine. There is little to no evidence at this point that shows if this cocktail can actually prevent contracting COVID-19 if administered to someone prior to becoming infected, but it is something that they’ve investigated to decrease symptoms of a non-hospitalized individual who has contracted COVID-19.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Q: Are there any preventive measures you have observed being taken by employers in other countries or by multi-national corporations that differ from those being used by domestic U.S. companies?

A: No, the strategies have been much the same. Across the board we’ve seen a focus on routine testing and getting access to tests that have undergone some rigor of approval in those respective countries. We’ve helped develop multi-national approaches at WorkCare for clients who operate in other countries. By far and away, testing was something that was started internationally ahead of the U.S. really getting into the swing of testing because of issues with access to tests that were FDA approved. So, when we talk about the overall nuanced strategy, there is not a lot of variability and there is a ubiquitous focus on testing.