Welcome! - How to Participate Online

- Use computer audio (versus telephone).
- All participants are muted upon entry. **Please do not unmute yourself.**
- Please **do not turn on your camera** unless you are speaking.
- Hover your cursor over the WebEx window to access the menu pictured below.
- To ask a question, type it into the Chat function on the bottom right.

- Raise your hand to request to be un-muted when we pause for questions and comments:
  - Open the Participants panel & click the hand icon next to your name.
COVID-19 + Seasonal Flu:
Potential Impacts on
the Workforce &
Infrastructure including Mass Transit, Hospitals, and Schools
Welcome & Overview

Bill Raisch
Co-Director, Project NEXT™
Director, International Center for Enterprise Preparedness (INTERCEP)

New York University
Tandon School of Engineering
SOC-NET: Worldwide Network of Corporate Security & Resilience Operations

Connected & Collaborating
24/7/365

- Security
- Crisis Mgmt.
- Continuity
- Health & Safety
- Resilience

To join SOC-NET: Contact INTERCEP@NYU.EDU
The SOC-NET Mission

**Multinational Corporations** collaborating globally on:

1. **Operational intelligence** – real time sharing / fusing information from external & member sources
2. **Best-in-class practices & lessons learned** - sharing / capturing insights from leading corporations to assure most effective and efficient operations
3. **Coordination of activities & resources** – leveraging collective expertise, capabilities and resources on shared risks and incidents
Project NEXT™: Adapt, re-imagine & innovate

Mission: To bring key stakeholders together to best adapt and re-imagine operations and operating environment for organizations in response to the current and emerging threats including infectious disease – while also innovating for the better.

1. Identify & Analyze Key Challenges
2. Evaluate Potential Solutions / Enhance / Innovate
3. Share Insights Widely
Serving as a Global Resource & Innovation Hub

Connecting Key Stakeholders to Collaborate on Shared Challenges
Collaborating with Leading Associations to Engage & Support Key Sectors

Join us: JLC27@nyu.edu or INTERCEP@nyu.edu
Guest Panelists

Mary Foote, MD, MPH
Health Systems Planning and Strategies Lead, COVID-19 Response
Senior Health Security Specialist
Bureau of Healthcare Systems Readiness, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR)
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Jeff Hiott
Vice President, Technical Services and Innovation
American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

Sharon Smith, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Prudential Financial
Corporate Benchmarking Survey:

With the strong potential of flare-ups in both COVID-19 cases and the seasonal flu, what impacts are you concerned about?
Mary Foote, MD, MPH
Health Systems Planning and Strategies Lead, COVID-19 Response
Senior Health Security Specialist
Bureau of Healthcare Systems Readiness, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR)
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

• The Second Wave: What about the ongoing “second wave” of COVID-19?
• COVID-19 + Seasonal Flu: What could a duel spike look like?
• How Might Gov’t React? What changes in regulations and guidance might various governments potentially take?
• Hospitals: Could there be strained capacity and limited healthcare providers?
Preparing for a COVID-19 and Flu Syndemic: The Public Health Perspective

MARY FOOTE, MD, MPH
SENIOR HEALTH SECURITY SPECIALIST, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE

October 21, 2020
Outline

- Framing the problem
- Current picture
- Public health response
  - Surveillance
  - Testing
  - Vaccines
  - Non-pharmaceutical interventions
- 2020-2021 outlook
Seasonal Flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- Each year, the beginning, peak and end of the flu season are different
- Influenza activity starts in October and peaks in February most seasons
  - RSV typically peaks a bit earlier than influenza
- Influenza sometimes exhibits two separate peaks in a season
CDC estimates* that, from **October 1, 2019**, through **April 4, 2020**, there have been:

- **39,000,000 – 56,000,000** flu *illnesses*
- **18,000,000 – 26,000,000** flu *medical visits*
- **410,000 – 740,000** flu *hospitalizations*
- **24,000 – 62,000** flu *deaths*

[https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm)
Seasonal Influenza + COVID-19 = Syndemic

- Potential second wave of COVID-19 in the fall
  - Compounding strain on health care system capacity
  - Higher risk to black and brown communities

- Overlap in symptoms and presentation

- COVID-19 testing challenges persist

- Impact of dual respiratory infections unknown
  - Are recovered COVID-19 patients more vulnerable?

- Could exacerbate shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies
Potential Impacts on the Healthcare System

- **Space**
  - Overwhelmed hospital bed capacity, disruption of routine services

- **Staff**
  - Additional needs and fewer available staff

- **Supplies**
  - Shortages of personal protective equipment, ventilators, medications, testing supplies, etc.

- **Systems**
  - Requires coordination at local, state and federal level
Where We Are Now: COVID-19

- New cases in the Americas, especially the United States (U.S.), Brazil, and Argentina are fueling much of the global daily increase.
- Second surge in European countries also continue to add large numbers to the daily global total.
- Cases are on the rise in the U.S.
- A concerning increase in case counts has been observed in certain NYC areas, though Citywide test positivity remains <2%.
- Three areas in NYC have been designated by New York State (NYS) as requiring restrictions on school attendance, businesses, and gatherings.
Average daily cases per 100,000 people in the past week

2  6  10  14
Few or no cases

New York Times. Coronavirus map: tracking the global outbreak as of 10/21/2020
COVID-19, U.S.

New York Times. Coronavirus in the U.S.: new reported cases and deaths as of 10/21/2020
Average daily cases per 100,000 people in the past week

8  24  40  56  Few or no cases

COVID-19, NYC
As of 10/20/20

Cases
249,335

Hospitalizations
58,427

Deaths
19,292 (confirmed)
4,652 (probable)

https://nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page
Surveillance for Flu

Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report

Note: CDC is tracking the COVID-19 pandemic in a weekly publication called COVIDView.

Key Updates for Week 41, ending October 10, 2020
Seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains low.

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm
NYC: https://nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/health-topics/flu-alerts.page

From October 4-10, 2020, approximately 1% of all sentinel provider visits were due to influenza-like illness in NYC. These data include visits to both emergency departments and over 60 outpatient clinics.
Key Public Health Interventions

- Expanding access to testing to facilitate contact tracing
- Expanding flu vaccine coverage
- Preparing for the COVID-19 vaccine
  - Prioritization and distribution
- Countering misinformation
- Non-pharmaceutical interventions
  - Face covering mandates
  - Phased rollback of business reopening
  - School closures
  - Interventions may be targeted or more broadly implemented
2020 Influenza Season Outlook: Positive signs?

Southern Hemisphere

Northern Hemisphere

https://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/
Outlook for U.S.

- Outlook for U.S. and Northern Hemisphere may look different
  - Continued easing of restrictions
  - Quarantine fatigue
  - Rampant misinformation and mistrust of government institutions
  - No unified national approach – what happens in one part of country can impact the rest

- Need to work together to reduce COVID-19 resurgence during flu season
  - Practice what we know works
PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN NYC!

TAKE THESE STEPS:

Stay home if you’re sick
Only leave for essential medical care and testing or other essential errands.

Wear a face covering
You can be contagious without symptoms. Protect those around you by wearing a face covering.

Keep physical distance
Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.

Keep your hands clean
Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Avoid large gatherings, especially indoors!

Get tested: There are free COVID-19 testing sites in all five boroughs. To find a site, visit nyc.gov/covidtest, or text “COVID test” to 855-48.

For the latest information, visit nyc.gov/coronavirus.
COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization

Initial target expected to be:

- Health care personnel\(^1\) with high risk of exposure
- Persons with increased risk of COVID-19 complications
  - Adults aged \(\geq 65\) years
  - People with certain underlying health conditions\(^2\)
  - Essential workers
    - To be defined; may include transportation, food services

1. CDC definition of health care personnel: [https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/healthcare-personnel/appendix/terminology.html](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/healthcare-personnel/appendix/terminology.html)
NYS-designated zones reflect areas of increased transmission and surrounding areas

- Red zones have the most restrictions, followed by orange, followed by yellow

All New Yorkers should know what zone they live and work in so that they know their potential risk of exposure and what restrictions apply to them

NYC address look-up website: nyc.gov/COVIDZone

- Can search an address, place or intersection in NYC
- Can zoom in to street level to see boundaries of each zone
As of October 8, restrictions are now in place in designated COVID-19 zones for a minimum of 14 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Red Zone</th>
<th>Orange Zone</th>
<th>Yellow Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Closed; full remote learning</td>
<td>Closed; full remote learning</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>Only essential businesses* can remain open</td>
<td>Only essential businesses* can remain open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service Establishments</td>
<td>Take out and delivery only (no indoor or outdoor dining)</td>
<td>Outdoor dining allowed (no indoor dining); maximum 4 people per table</td>
<td>Indoor and outdoor dining allowed; maximum 4 people per table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses of Worship</td>
<td>25% capacity, up to a maximum of 25 people</td>
<td>33% capacity, up to a maximum of 25 people</td>
<td>50% maximum capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatherings (indoor and outdoor)</td>
<td>All nonessential gatherings prohibited**</td>
<td>Maximum of 10 people**</td>
<td>Maximum of 25 people**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As defined by NYS at: [https://esd.ny.gov/ny-cluster-action-initiative-guidance](https://esd.ny.gov/ny-cluster-action-initiative-guidance)

**Fines up to $15,000/day
Updated Testing Guidance: Testing and Screening People Who Live or Work in NYC (HAN #38)

• Offer diagnostic testing with a nucleic acid amplification (NAA) or antigen-based test to people who:
  • Live or work in areas of NYC with increased COVID-19 activity
  • Have COVID-19 symptoms
  • Have a recent exposure to someone with known COVID-19

• Offer testing in special circumstances:
  • People returning from a restricted state, as designated by NYS (https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory)
  • People who attended in indoor gatherings of >50 people
  • People who plan to visit someone with an increased risk for severe COVID-19 (2-3 days before planned visit)

• Screen people who do not have symptoms or a known exposure to prevent asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission

• Offer monthly screening (using NAA, with certain exceptions) to the following groups every month or as deemed appropriate for the setting and local epidemiology:
  • Residents and staff of long-term care facilities (exception: staff must be tested weekly per NYS)
  • Health care personnel
  • Other workers with frequent contact with large numbers of persons (e.g. child care staff, teachers, first responders)

• Offer screening every 1-3 months to people attending events where physical distancing not possible and workers who interact with others
  • The exact interval within this range should be based on shared decision-making with the patient, considering possible exposures and risk factors for COVID-19
  • It is reasonable to do monthly testing when risk is unknown or unclear

Sharon Smlth, MD, MBA
Vice President
Chief Medical Officer
Prudential Financial

- Health Impacts on Corporate Workforce
  - Need for a Changing Mindset
  - Employee Health Attestations
    - Testing and Cadence
    - Quarantine Policies
    - Building Access
  - Mass Transit Concerns
Jeff Hlott
Vice President
Technical Services and Innovation
American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

• Perceptions of Mass Transit Safety
  • Recent Research on Risks
  • What Steps are Being Taken
• What to Expect in the Near Term?
Public Transportation and COVID-19

• Public transportation agencies continue to play a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic response, as we navigate the road to recovery throughout the U.S.

• Tireless efforts to provide rail and bus service so that essential workers can get to work, underscoring how vital it is to keep public transit running.
Transit and COVID-19

- Frequent Communication to Staff, Operators, and Customers
- Follow proper guidance from CDC and other national preeminent public health experts
- Promote mitigation measures
- Information sharing with industry peers (APTA)
APTA developed Guidance and Research
Technologies in Public Transportation in response to COVID-19 include:

- Contactless Fare Payment Systems
- Use of data to communicate with passengers and information to show how crowded trains/buses are
- UV Light and HVAC cleaning & filtration
- Modeling
- Rear boarding on buses and Bus Shields to protect operators
APTA Health and Safety Commitments Program

A product of the APTA Recovery and Restoration Task Force
H&S Commitment Program Goals

• Winning Back Rider’s Confidence

• Keeping Riders and Employees Safe
Key Messages

1. Our system is committed to keeping riders and employees safe.

2. It’s a shared commitment between our agency and our riders.

3. Transit is essential to our community’s recovery and success.
Qualitative and Quantitative Research

COVID-19 Impact on Ridership

- Despite declining use, those riding recently (since COVID-19) have had positive experiences.
- A majority (52%) say their local transit systems are doing an excellent / good job to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Perceptions of Public Transportation + Its Alternatives

- Safe and clean are the most important attributes when choosing transportation options.
- Riders have better perceptions of ridesharing and taxis than public transit options.
Qualitative and Quantitative Research

Actions & Policies to Win Riders Back

An overwhelming majority (81%) say **cleaning and sanitizing** (81%) and a **safety seal** (87%) will increase their comfort in riding transit.

**Key actions to win riders back** include some combination of:

- Requiring face coverings for both riders and employees
- Detailed and frequent cleaning
- Ventilation / Capacity Limits / Frequent Onboard Reminders of Rules / Seal of approval

A majority agree that COVID-19 **safety is a cooperative effort** and having **more information empowers** them to make the best choices.

Overall, **safety messages** (i.e., posters, safety seal) **increase** riders’ comfort.
National Commitments, Local Action

- Follow public health **official guidelines** from official sources;
- **Protect each other** by cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles & facilities;
- Require **face coverings** and other protections;
- Keep passengers updated to encourage **informed choices**;
- Put **health first** by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill.
Informing Riders

Our Commitments To Health & Safety

- Creating science-based policies
- Following all health & safety rules
- Cleaning & disinfecting more frequently
- Wearing face coverings & washing hands
- Sharing information about safe rides
- Respecting fellow riders’ space
- Keeping our employees healthy
- Staying home if you’re sick
Informing Riders

We’re protecting each other.

WE’RE DOING OUR PART
Cleaning & disinfecting

YOU’RE DOING YOURS
Wearing face coverings
Informing Riders
APTA Resources

Online COVID-19 Resource Hub:

Largest collection of industry best practices, white papers, and other resources to help agencies meet the Commitments.

www.apta.com/covid-19-resource-hub
We’re all in this together.
Guest Panelists

Mary Foote, MD, MPH
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Closing & Next Steps
Join us in Advancing Project NEXT™

- **Allied Associations** – Jointly serving members
- **Leading Public & Private Organizations** – Share Best Practices and Lessons Learned
- **Corporate Innovation Partners** – Expertise & Support

Email us at: JLC27@nyu.edu or INTERCEP@nyu.edu
Core Objectives

• Connect Diverse Stakeholders (users, subject matter experts & solution providers) to address urgent needs

• Partner with Leading Associations to Enable Robust Cross-Pollination of Practices & Lessons Learned on Ongoing Basis

• Advance a Holistic / Interconnected Vision - *Supporting Coordination Across Efforts*

• **Innovate for the Better:** *Advancing Core Imperatives in creating our New Environment*

• **Integrate Incentives:** *Insurance, Legal Liability, Rating Agency, Operational Risk / Continuity*
Targeted Problem Solving, Solutions Assessment & Innovation

Direct User / Stakeholder Engagement: Forums, Interviews, Surveys & Research

1. Identify Key Challenges / Needs
   - Current & Emerging

2. Analyze Contributing Factors / Drivers / Considerations

3. Identify & Evaluate Current Solutions

4. Identify Potential Enhancements Improvements to Existing Solutions If Appropriate

5. Spotlight Effective Approaches & Propose New Solutions As Needed

**Deliverables & Products:**

- Needs Inventory
- Problem Analysis
- Inventory of Potential Solutions
- Enhancements & Improvements
- Innovations & New Approaches
- Connection of Users to Solution Providers
- Stakeholder Groups for Further Development / Test Beds / Pilots
The COVID-19 Challenge Program

• **Targets an urgent issue** in need of innovative solutions

• **Engages key stakeholders:** subject matter experts, impacted organizations (potential users of solutions) & solution providers

• **Works through a fast-tracked problem solving approach** to identify and assess potential solutions

• **Produces actionable products** for the impacted organizations:
  • **Problem analysis** (key drivers, considerations, etc.)
  • **Inventory of potential solution approaches**
  • **Assessments of key products / services** with strengths / weaknesses of major solution types
  • **Identification of potential enhancements / innovations** to spur new solutions
Our Three Key Questions:

1. What is the threat or challenge?
2. What could be its impacts?
3. What can we do about these?