COVID-19
Situation Report
& Public Health Guidance

March 19, 2020

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Recap of Important Facts

• COVID-19 is caused by a new virus that is at least 10x more lethal than seasonal influenza
• Everyone is susceptible.
• People over 60 and those with chronic health conditions at highest risk.
• Estimates are that without intervention, as many as 40% to 60% of Americans could become infected (130 to 196 million people) in the next year
• Testing is becoming more available. However, shortages of masks, gloves, and gowns, are already causing problems. Other workforce and supply issues are looming.
• Without medications or vaccines at the present time, our best tools are identification and isolation of sick, quarantines for the exposed, and other “social distancing” measures.
http://coronavirus.jhu.edu
Impact in Europe

• Cases are doubling every 2-3 days in France and Italy

• Cases doubling every 3 days in UK

• In northern Italy, doctors are rationing ventilators and other essential medical equipment, prioritizing treatment for the young and others with the best chance of survival.

• Lockdowns in France, Spain, and Italy
The US Is Following the Trajectory of Other Heavily Impacted Countries

Source: CSSE COVID Dashboard, Johns Hopkins
State of the Epidemic on 3/19

• COVID-19 will affect every city in the United States

• Every city should prepare for the possibility if not the likelihood of shortages of hospital beds and ventilators.

• Local action in every city sooner rather than later can save lives.
Key Priorities for Mayors
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1. Put COVID response at **top of your agenda**

2. Support **Social Distancing**

3. Direct city services to support **high-risk populations**

4. Advocate and support **testing, follow-up, and care** that meets the needs of city residents

5. **Communicate** regularly and clearly
Focus: Social Distancing

Goals of Community Mitigation:

1. Delay outbreak peak
2. Decompress peak burden on hospitals / infrastructure
3. Diminish overall cases and health impacts

![Chart showing the impact of social distancing on pandemic outbreak]

- Pandemic outbreak: No intervention
- Pandemic outbreak: With intervention

Days Since First Case

Daily Cases

Hospital capacity

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Social Distancing: The Basics

1. For everyone: Handwashing with soap, cover cough, stay home if you or anyone in your household is sick
2. To the extent possible: Stay home if over 60 or with serious medical condition
3. For others:
   A. To the extent possible: Work from home
   B. Do not eat out; use drive-through or takeout
   C. Avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people
   D. Postpone non-essential shopping and trips

How Can Mayors Protect Older Adults and Others with Special Needs?

• Assure that local nursing homes and assisted living facilities are following federal and state guidance, including permitting only essential visitors

• Develop a structure for city agencies, community groups, nonprofits, and the private sector to assist older adults with groceries, medicines, and other errands.
Should Mayors Close Schools?

- 37 states have closed schools, but experts disagree on value of doing so.
- **CDC**: Consider closure only with community transmission.
- **White House**: School from home whenever possible.
- **Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security**:
  - Potential value of school closure is for 2 months, not 2 weeks.
  - If schools closed, need to mitigate consequences of closure, such as access to food and need for parents performing essential city jobs to work.

How Can Mayors Model Social Distancing?

• Lead by example

• Telework where possible and reduce or eliminate your and your staff’s time in groups and offices.

• Stay home when sick, cover your cough ... and wash your hands!
How Should Mayors Be Communicating?

1. Timely
2. Accurate
3. Credible
4. Express empathy
5. Promote action
6. Show respect

https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/
What Should Mayors Be Saying?

- The coronavirus epidemic is a threat to our community.
- Everyone needs to do their part to save lives.
- The actions we are taking are difficult but necessary.
- As information and recommendations change, we will keep you updated. Please stay informed by ______.
- Working together, we will make it through this difficult time.
What Falsehoods Should Mayors Correct?

- *The coronavirus is a hoax.*

  Fact: This is no hoax. The virus poses a real threat to our city.

- *This is just like the flu.*

  Fact: The coronavirus is more contagious and deadly than the flu.

- *Young people do not have to worry since they are less likely to get seriously ill.*

  Fact: Young people can get quite ill and they can also pass the disease to older and more vulnerable family members and neighbors.
For More Information

The Johns Hopkins daily situation report from the Center for Health Security and other content are available online at http://coronavirus.jhu.edu

The Public Health On Call podcast with daily coronavirus interviews is online at http://bit.ly/publichealthoncall

There is useful information about communications in a public health crisis online at https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/