COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update
Business Continuity & Infectious Disease Planning For Events
(webinar given 3/4/2020)

Stuart B. Weiss, MD, FACEP, FAAP, CBCP
Founder and Medical Director
Intelligent Crowd Solutions – iCrowd.com
CoronaVirus 2019 (COVID-19)

• Large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals such as camels, cattle, cats and bats.
• Causes most of the common colds in Humans
• Most likely came from bats. Studies show it to be 96% similar to a bat strain on corona virus. Need an intermediate host:
Seven Types of Coronaviruses That Affect Humans

- Human Coronavirus 229E
- Human Coronavirus NL63
- Human Coronavirus OC43
- Human Coronavirus HKU1

  - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome SARS-CoV (2002)
    - 37 countries, 8,096 cases reported, 774 deaths (9.5%)
  - Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome MERS-CoV (2012-present)
    - 26 countries, 2,494 cases, 858 deaths (34%)
  - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome SARS-CoV-2 virus
    - 94,250 confirmed cases in 70+ countries and ships, 3,214 deaths

For comparison: Influenza = 0.1% - 0.5%, Pandemic 1918 had 2% mortality

Current Threat Status

- Dec 2019 – cluster of sick patients with respiratory illness in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China was detected
- Initially most patients had a link to the Wuhan seafood and live animal market
Current Threat Status

- Few weeks later in January, many people did not have a link to animal market and Person-to-Person spread confirmed
- 96% similar to a Bat coronavirus but lacking specific mechanisms to infect humans. Must be animal intermediate host (pangolin?)

Current Threat Status

The SARS CoV-2 virus

- Incubation up to 14 days, usually 5-7 days
- Spread:
  - Between people who are close to each other (within 6 feet)
    - Via respiratory droplets when sick person sneezes or coughs
  - From contact with infected surfaces and then touching mouth, nose or eyes
    - one study, college students touched face 23x/hour
  - Mostly when person is sickest, but can be prior to symptoms
  - Spreads easily and sustainably ($R_0 = \sim 2$)
  - Mortality rate: calculated 3.4%, likely 2% or lower
Current Statistics (as of 3/4)

• Cases (80+ countries, all continents except Antarctica)
  • 94,250 cases worldwide
  • 80,270 in China
  • 5,621 in South Korea
  • 2,922 Iran
  • 2,502 Italy
  • 706 Others
  • 304 Japan
  • 244 Germany
  • 212 France
  • 193 Spain
  • 128 USA

• Deaths
  • 3,214 deaths worldwide
  • 2,981 in China
  • 92 Iran
  • 79 Italy
  • 28 South Korea
  • 9 USA
  • 6 Japan
  • 6 Diamond Princess Cruise Ship
  • 2 Hong Kong
  • 4 France
Global Situation

- Risk Assessment
  - Virus causes illness resulting in death (Pandemic criterion 1)
  - Virus shows sustained Person-to-Person spread (Pandemic criterion 2)
  - Has worldwide spread (60+ countries) (Pandemic criterion 3) – WHO not declared Pandemic yet
  - No vaccine or treatment medications available
  - Friday WHO raised global threat to “Very High”
By Corky Siemaszko

Every train, bus, car and station in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority – the nation’s largest public transit system – was being disinfected Tuesday after a second person in New York tested positive for coronavirus. MTA workers armed with disinfectant, wipes and high-pressure nozzles worked overnight to scrub down the 472 subway stations in New York City.
US Situation

- Community spread in many places almost definite
- Confirmed cases on CA, OR, WA, RI, FL, NY, AZ, IL, WI, MA, GA, NH. NC
- 9 deaths in the US (in nursing facility in WA)
- Many more cases will be reported as test kits are available
- Public Health Risk in US and Worldwide is considered very high, the virus has community spread within the US population
- For general American public, immediate health risk is low
US Situation - travel

- March 3rd updated DOS Travel guidance:
  - China – Level 4 – Do not travel
  - Iran – Level 4 – Do not travel
  - South Korea – Level 3 – reconsider travel to this area
  - Italy – Level 3
  - Mongolia – Level 3
  - Japan – Level 2 – Practice enhanced precautions
  - Hong Kong – Level 2 – Exercise increased caution
  - Macau – Level 2

The Future?
Eight Things to do RIGHT NOW

#1 Develop a Business Continuity Infectious Disease Plan
Infectious Diseases Are Local

• There is a global infectious disease crisis and it is now spreading in the US. How your community responds is a local phenomenon.

• Take this time to do the necessary planning
• Brush off your old Pandemic Preparedness Plan

Basic Assumption for Good Planning:
• YOUR EVENTS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
• CDC will put out general guidance
• Establish relationships with key community partners (Public Health, OEM, Mayor’s office)
• Discuss plans with venue operator
What businesses need to do now to prepare for a potential local outbreak:
At this time, the risk to New Yorkers remains low. Encourage your staff to go about their daily lives but be mindful of taking certain precautions in the event that cases occur in New York City.

- Create or update your outbreak response plan.
- Stay informed, listen to public health messages from reliable sources like the NYC Health Department or the CDC, and implement prevention practices to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses such as covering your cough and sneeze, washing hand regularly and avoiding touching your face.
- The NYC Health Department does not currently recommend avoiding or canceling public gatherings, meetings, or events.

For more detailed information, visit nyc.gov/health/coronavirus and look for the FAQ for Businesses and Employers.
Plan Essentials

- Phases of a good plan:
  - Pre-outbreak preparation, planning and training
  - Threat present but not local, perform a threat assessment
  - Threat localized to surrounding community, plan activation

Activation Phases Based on Impact & Severity
(lesson learned from Birdflu pandemic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat Present, minimal Person to Person Transmission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threat Present, moderate Person to Person Transmission, moderate illness caused by threat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat Present, significant Person to Person Transmission, severe illness caused by threat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat Present, rampant Person to Person Transmission, not controllable by public health measures, severe illness and/or death caused by threat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employee categorization

- Standard practice in Business Continuity planning, especially in infectious disease plan
  - Category 1: employee performs mission-critical, time sensitive functions and must be onsite
  - Category 2: employee performs mission-critical, time sensitive functions and can work remotely
  - Category 3: employee does not perform mission-critical, time sensitive function and could work remotely if feasible
  - Category 4: employee does not perform mission-critical, time sensitive function and can not work remotely

Consider flexible duties for high risk individuals to keep them away from crowds

Plan for employee absenteeism

- Promote a culture where your employees stay home if they are sick

- Infecting your co-workers when you are sick because you are a “good employee” and don’t take sick days is NOT okay

- Create ability to work from home
Other key components of a good planning

• Flexible refund policies to keep sick people away
• Emergency Action Plan if an event needed to be cancelled or postponed
  • Can your event be enjoyed by TV, radio, Live streaming?
• Review of event cancellation insurance ramifications
• Review Force Majore clauses in vendor contracts

#2 Communicate with key stakeholders

• Develop holding statements in advance for employees and key stakeholders
• How are you handling social distancing, spectator safety, infectious disease concerns?
• Promote messages that discourage sick people from attending event and leaving if feel sick during event
Sample Holding Statement

“We are monitoring the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in our community and are in daily contact with our local, state, and federal partners. Our top priority is always the health and safety of our participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators. On the recommendation of our local health department, there have been no scheduling changes to our event and program. We expect staff who are feeling ill to stay home and request that participants who are ill not attend our event. We will provide ongoing updates as necessary.”
Situational Awareness

• The ability to understand what is going on around you through accurate intelligence

INFORMATION ↔ INTELLIGENCE

• Develop a process to collect information from internal business units and external credible sources

• WHO Daily reports
• CDC Updates
• Johns Hopkins
• Local Health Department, City Agencies
• Your medical director

• Central location for business units to report and track CoVid-19 issues

March 2020 Intelligent Crowd Solutions - iCrowd.com Slide 33

Situational Awareness

• Triple check all social media stories (from unknown sources)
• There are many conspiracy theories

• Distribute a SitRep to executives to maintain a common operating picture (daily, bi-weekly, weekly, etc.)

March 2020 Intelligent Crowd Solutions - iCrowd.com Slide 34
#4 Assess the Impact on Critical Supply Chains

- Perform a supply chain assessment
- Map your supply chain operations, upstream and downstream
- How are critical vendors handling supply chain issues?
  - Do they have a business continuity plan
  - Will they be able to deliver product?
- Discover vulnerabilities and address them early
- Address contractual arrangements if vendors don’t deliver

#4 Assess the Impact on Critical Supply Chains

- Where do critical items come from?
  - RFID chips used in race scoring system or event access control system
  - Post Race Shirts or merchandise
  - Medals
  - Clear plastic bags for personal items
  - Runner Bibs
  - Delineators and plastic delineator tape
  - Coroplast signage
  - Gloves, masks, medical supplies
#5 Promote good health habits

- Hand Washing technique
- Cover your cough program
- Stay home when you’re sick
  - Don’t come to work and infect everyone else
- Avoid touching your face (recent study indicates 23x/hour)
- Extra hand washing stations/ hand sanitizer stations at events especially around food (60% alcohol)

#5 Promote good health habits

- Implement social distancing at events between staff and patrons
- No high-fiving or hugging people at finish line
- No shaking hands at meetings
- Increase cleaning schedule of surfaces
#6 - Perform a Risk Assessment of Company Travel

- The time for limiting travel may be coming to an end
- What is considered essential travel?
- Who is essential to send?
- What will happen if they are quarantined for 14 days?
- Maintain current knowledge of CDC and US DOS travel recommendations

Exercise Safe Travel Practices

- If someone coughing or sneezing within 6 feet of you (2 rows) try to get them to wear a mask (80% chance of catching what they have)
- If they will not wear a mask, you put on a mask
- Wipe surfaces with Clorox wipes (TV, arm rests, tray table)
#7 Review business continuity plans with infectious disease outbreak in mind

- CoVid-19 may last for months or years
- How will you function with long term significant staff reductions
- What functions are truly mission critical
- Are staff categorized properly
- How would social distancing be implemented

- Can significant numbers of folks work from home?
  - Does IT infrastructure support them?
    - Zoom
  - Do they have critical office equipment to do their job at home?
- Is there opportunity to practice work from home on large scale?
#8 Inventory PPE needs

- Do you have masks, gloves, hand sanitizer?
- Do you have adequate cleaning supplies to clean surfaces more often?
- How much do you need? Who is it for?
  - Category 1 employees?
  - Participants?
  - Volunteers?
- OSHA compliant fit testing program

Personal and Family Preparedness
Personal and Family Preparedness

Avoid Sick people
Wash your hand A LOT with proper technique
Use Hand sanitizer often when in public places (>60% alcohol)
Carry masks with you and wear one if around a sick person or on a plane with a coughing or sneezing person within 2 rows of you
Be smart about your health choices

Dogs and Cats do not appear to spread disease
• 1 case in China of a tested dog that had weak positive test.
• No Disease symptoms
• Nasal and mouth swabs weakly positive
Eight things to do right now

- Business Continuity Infectious Disease Plan
- Communicate with key stakeholders
- Situational Awareness
- Assess critical supply chains
- Promote good health habits
- Assess company travel
- Review business continuity plans and crisis management plans
- Inventory PPE and cleaning supply items

Be ready for a long haul

- This could last for years or months
- This virus will become a pandemic but how ill people will actually get is not known yet.
- A strong infectious disease business continuity plan will help an organization survive a pandemic
Thank You

Stuart B. Weiss, MD, FACEP, FAAP, CBCP
Founder and Medical Director
Intelligent Crowd Solutions
sweiss@iCrowd.com
929-999-6360

(c) Intelligent Crowd Solutions - iCrowd.com