

Situation Report: 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Situation Report:	#4
Date of Issue:	3/4/2020
Time Period	2/26/2020 through 3/3/2020
Time Issued:	0900 hours
Prepared By:	John Sherrard – Emergency Preparedness Supervisor
Approved By:	Greg Kesterman – Interim Health Commissioner
Sent to:	Hamilton County EMHSA

Current Situation:

Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization are closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed “COVID-19”) first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019 and which continues to expand.

- Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been [detected in the U.S.](#)
- [Person-to-person](#) spread of COVID-19 was first reported among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan.
- During the week of February 23, CDC reported community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 in [California \(in two places\), Oregon and Washington](#). Community spread in Washington resulted in [the first death in the United States](#) from COVID-19, as well as the first reported case of COVID-19 in a health care worker, and the first potential outbreak in a long-term care facility.

HCPH Update:

- HCPH participated in two statewide ODH conference calls to discuss the COVID-19 response efforts throughout the state.
- On 2/27/20, HCPH participated in a statewide ODH conference call with all of the local public health Public Information Officers throughout the state.
- On 3/2/20, participated in a statewide ODH conference call with all of the local public health Emergency Response Coordinators throughout the state.
- On 3/2/20, HCPH set up a phone bank with one number to call for residents to ask public health questions. HCPH Epi staff will answer calls from the public if it is activated. The phone bank will be activated if the need arises to answer questions from the public.
- On 3/2/20, HCPH worked with the Drug & Poison Information Center (DPIC) to use its main phone number for regional physicians and clinicians to call to report persons that potentially may need to be self-quarantined for 14 days. DPIC would then report that information to the local health department that the patient resides in. HCPH worked with the Southwest Ohio Region to send out a Public Health Advisory to share this information to hospitals and clinicians.



- On 3/3/20, HCPH provided an update to its agency staff on public health's current role in the COVID-19 response. HCPH's Interim Health Commissioner and Medical Director provided an overview of COVID-19 and the agency's response actions to date.
- On 3/3/20, HCPH's Interim Health Commissioner and Medical Director updated the county elected officials and Hamilton County EMA on the COVID-19 response and preparedness activities.
- On 3/3/20, HCPH provided COVID-19 Guidance Document to principals and nurses in K-12 schools within HCPH's service jurisdiction.
- On 3/3/20, HCPH provided a [CDC link](#) on COVID-19 Guidance to local law enforcement within HCPH service jurisdictions. The information is entitled "What law enforcement personnel need to know about COVID-19."
- As necessary, HCPH Epidemiologists conducted twice daily monitoring of residents residing in HCPH service jurisdictions who have traveled back from China and under the 14-day self-quarantine guidelines, as directed by ODH.
- If necessary, HCPH Epidemiologists are interviewing and tracking potential Persons Under Investigation (PUI) in its service jurisdictions.
- Provided COVID-19 Business Guidance Document to the Hamilton County EMA Business Coalition and to our Point of Dispensing (POD) Network.
- Provided COVID-19 College Guidance Document to Mt. St. Joe University and to UC Blue Ash.
- HCPH will continue to coordinate efforts with ODH and CDC.
- HCPH has started drafting a COVID-19 Response Plan.
- HCPH's incident management team meets following the ODH statewide conference calls. The incident management team includes the Interim Health Commissioner, Assistant Health Commissioner, Director of Nursing, Director of Disease Prevention, Director of Epidemiology, Senior Epidemiologist, Public Information Officer and the Emergency Response Coordinator.
- HCPH will continue updating its website on an as-needed basis with COVID-19 information.
- HCPH continues to monitor all sources (ODH, CDC, WHO, etc.) for the latest COVID-19 information.
- HCPH continues to respond to all media requests.
- HCPH continues to monitor the need for opening an informational hotline if needed.
- As necessary, HCPH will share the situational report with other regional local health departments and the Greater Cincinnati Healthcare Coalition.

Upcoming HCPH Activities:

- On 3/4/20 and 3/6/20, HCPH Epidemiological staff will train agency staff who have volunteered to conduct "Contact Tracing" in the event Epi staff are overwhelmed with conducting contact training for multiple Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19.
- On 3/5/20, HCPH's Interim Health Commissioner and Director of Epidemiology will attend the Governor's Summit on COVID-19 Preparedness in Columbus, OH.



- HCPH is drafting a COVID-19 Response Plan.

Ohio Department of Health Update:

- For the latest ODH updates on COVID-19, please click on this [link](#).
- On 2/28/20, ODH sent out a HAN detailing updated guidance for testing of Patients Under Investigation for COVID-19.
- On 3/3/20, ODH announced that by the end of the week, they should be standing up a Public Call Center. The phone number will be sent out once the call center is in operation.
- On 3/3/20, ODH provided “Guidance for Large Gatherings” information to local health departments throughout the state.
- ODH to increase its posting of information via its Twitter Account. ODH has requested local health departments to retweet its COVID-19 twitter postings.
- ODH continues to hold state-wide calls to share information with local health departments and other response organizations.
- There are no confirmed cases in Ohio.
- Communication will remain key with COVID-19; ODH will remain available 24/7.
- CDC continues to emphasize person-to-person spread has occurred under close contact with infected individuals; there is no community spread.
- Healthcare workers caring for confirmed cases may have risk. However, risk to the public is low.
- Local health departments should track their time and effort during the response.
- ODH’s laboratory is still waiting for an updated lab kit so it can eventually test samples for COVID-19.
- ODH working with Council on Aging to provide COVID-19 information.
- ODH working on a guidance letter to local law enforcement. ODH working with Ohio EMA to push this letter out to local law enforcement.
- ODH continues to update COVID-19 information on its website and in OPHCS.

Ohio COVID-19 Statistics:

Ohio Confirmed Cases: 0

Ohio Deaths: 0

Ohio Person(s) Under Investigation: 1

Negative PUIs in Ohio: 7

Ohio Persons Under Public Health Supervision (14-day self-quarantine): 212

CDC Update (Situation in the US):

CDC is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus named [COVID-19](#). The outbreak first started in Wuhan, China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other [international locations](#), including the United States. The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread with this virus on January 30, 2020.



CDC COVID-19 Statistics:

Worldwide Confirmed Cases: 94,301 ([link](#))

Worldwide Deaths: 3,220 (95% are in China)

Recovered: 51,204

U.S. Confirmed Cases: 60 ([link](#))

- Travel related – 22
- Person-to-person spread – 11
- Under investigation – 27
- Repatriated to U.S. from Wuhan – 3
- Repatriated to U.S. from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship - 45

U.S. Deaths: 6

States Reporting Cases: 12

COVID-19 Fatality Rate by AGE:

*Death Rate = (number of deaths / number of cases) = probability of dying if infected by the virus (%). This probability differs depending on the age group. The percentage shown below does NOT represent in any way the share of deaths by age group. Rather, it represents, for a person in a given group, the risk of dying if infected with COVID-19.

AGE	DEATH RATE*
80+ years old	14.8%
70-79 years old	8.0%
60-69 years old	3.6%
50-59 years old	1.3%
40-49 years old	0.4%
30-39 years old	0.2%
20-29 years old	0.2%
10-19 years old	0.2%
0-9 years old	No fatalities

CDC Response Updates:

- Visit the [CDC website](#) for more information.
- CDC established a COVID-19 Incident Management System on January 7, 2020. On January 21, CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to better provide ongoing support to the COVID-19 response.
- The U.S. government has taken unprecedented steps with respect to **travel** in response to the growing public health threat posed by this new coronavirus:
 - Effective February 2, at 5pm, the U.S. government suspended entry of foreign nationals who have been in China within the past 14 days.
 - U.S. citizens, residents, and their immediate family members who have been in Hubei province and other parts of mainland China are allowed to enter the United States, but they are subject to health monitoring and possible quarantine for up to 14 days.



- On February 29, the U.S. government announced it was suspending entry of foreign nationals who have been in Iran within the past 14 days.
- CDC has issued the following travel guidance related to COVID-19:
 - [China — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 22;
 - [Hong Kong — Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions](#) — issued February 19;
 - [Iran — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 28;
 - [Italy — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 28;
 - [Japan — Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) — updated February 22;
 - [South Korea — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 24.
- CDC also recommends that [all travelers reconsider cruise ship voyages into or within Asia](#) at this time.
- CDC is issuing [clinical guidance](#), including:
 - On January 30, CDC published [guidance for healthcare professionals on the clinical care of COVID-19 patients](#).
 - On February 3, CDC posted [guidance for assessing the potential risk for various exposures](#) to COVID-19 and managing those people appropriately.
 - On February 27, CDC updated its [criteria to guide evaluation of persons under investigation for COVID-19](#).
 - On February 28, CDC issued a Health Alert Network (HAN): [Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of COVID-19](#).

CDC Recommendations:

- Everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat:
 - It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking [everyday preventive actions](#) to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.
 - If you are a healthcare provider, be on the look-out for:
 - People who recently traveled from China or another [affected area](#) and who have symptoms associated with COVID-19, and
 - People who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or pneumonia of unknown cause. (Consult the most recent [definition for patients under investigation \[PUIs\]](#).)
 - If you are a healthcare provider or a public health responder caring for a COVID-19 patient, please take care of yourself and follow recommended [infection control procedures](#).
 - If you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and develop symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider and tell them about your symptoms and your exposure.
- If you are a resident in a community where person-to-person spread of COVID-19 has been detected and you develop COVID-19 symptoms, call your healthcare provider and tell them about your symptoms.
- For people who are ill with COVID-19, but are not sick enough to be hospitalized, please follow [CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others](#). People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness.



- If you have been in China or another affected area or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face [some limitations on your movement and activity](#) for up to 14 days. Please follow instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus.

World Health Organization Update:

- For the latest World Health Organization updates on COVID-19, please click on this [link](#). The website has a lot of information, such as:
 - How to protect yourself
 - Questions and Answers
 - Travel Advice
 - Situation Reports

