

**March 9, 2020 ~ COVID 19**

**Charles County Emergency Services**

***COVID-19***  
**Sit Rep #1**

<b><u>SITUATION</u></b>	
<b><i>Situation Summary:</i></b>	Global COVID-19 Infections have exceeded 100,000. COVID-19 See situation map <a href="#">here</a>
<b><i>Websites that include the official information:</i></b>	Printable CDC Handouts & Posters: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html</a> CDC COVID-19 website for informational purposes: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</a> Maryland Dept of Health Coronavirus website: <a href="https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx">https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx</a> Charles County Dept of Health Coronavirus website: <a href="http://www.charlescountyhealth.org/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-in-the-u-s/">http://www.charlescountyhealth.org/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-in-the-u-s/</a>
<b><i>Closures:</i></b>	None at this time
<b><u>EXECUTIVE ACTIONS</u></b>	
<b><i>EOC Activation:</i></b>	Not Activated at this time.
<b><i>State of Emergency:</i></b>	State of Maryland Declared on 3/5/2020 County has not declared at this time.
<b><i>Protective Actions:</i></b>	No recommended protective actions at this time.
<b><i>County Government:</i></b>	Normal Operations
<b><i>PIO:</i></b>	Coordinating with the Health Dept PIO for a consolidated message, and coordinating with regional PIOs, developing an e-newsletter, social media postings, PSAs and a Podcast.
<b><i>Schools:</i></b>	No closures at this time.
<b><u>HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES</u></b>	
<b><i>Total Casualties:</i></b>	None

\*\*SitRep #2~ Mar 6, 2020 – Next SitRep Mar 16, 2020\*\*

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<b><i>Shelter Operations:</i></b>	Not Activated
<b><i>Recreations, Parks &amp; Tourism:</i></b>	No report requested at this time.
<b><i>Department of Health:</i></b>	See attached information from Briefing on 3/9/2020
<b><i>Community Services:</i></b>	No report requested at this time.
<b><i>Lifestyles:</i></b>	No report requested at this time.
<b><u>OPERATIONS</u></b>	
<b><i>Career EMS:</i></b>	Signed Special Order 2020-1 for transport of infectious disease patients under investigation for COVID-19
<b><i>HazMat:</i></b>	No report requested at this time.
<b><i>Law Enforcement:</i></b>	No report requested at this time.
<b><i>Volunteer Fire:</i></b>	Prepared to respond to any COVID-19, No additional report requested at this time.
<b><i>Volunteer EMS:</i></b>	Signed Special Order 2020-1 for transport of infectious disease patients under investigation for COVID-19
<b><i>Special Operations Collapse Team:</i></b>	No report requested at this time.
<b><i>Emergency Management:</i></b>	Actively monitoring and supporting the Health Department and Public Informational efforts.
<b><i>Animal Control/CART:</i></b>	Not activated

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<b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u></b>	
<b><i>Power Outages: (SMECO)</i></b>	None at this time
<b><i>County Roads:</i></b>	No report requested at this time.
<b><i>Debris Removal:</i></b>	Not activated
<b><i>Communications:</i></b>	Providing 9-1-1 call screening for Possible COVID-19 cases. Per the signed Special Order2020-1.
<b><i>Utilities:</i></b>	Not activated
<b><i>PGM(DA Teams):</i></b>	Not activated
<b><i>County CIP/B&amp;T:</i></b>	Not activated
<b><u>LOGISTICS</u></b>	
<b><u>FINANCE</u></b>	
	No report requested at this time.
<b><u>STATE SUPPORT</u></b>	
	Actively coordinating with MEMA & MDH

## **COVID-19 PARTNER MEETING INFORMATION**

Charles County Health Department Role is to be the lead agency locally:

The health department follows the protocols set and guidance issued by the Center for Disease Control and the Maryland Department of Health. The internal COVID-19 team is on weekly calls with the CDC and MDH. How we respond locally is set by our Infectious Disease Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan. If and when there is a vaccine available – which won't be for at least a year per Dr. Fauci – the health department would open public pods to administer the vaccine.

At this point in the COVID-19 event, we will continue to educate; field calls in the Infectious Disease department; work with partners to prepare, but don't panic.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA:**

Charles County Dept of Health website up to date with direct links to the CDC and MDH sites.  
<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

Dr. Lowry and Dr. Hill from the Charles County Public Schools have issued a joint letter two weeks ago, and plan for a second letter this week on Wednesday.

We are building the relationship with the new CEO of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce who has a phenomenal outreach with the business community.

Coordinating all information with other County PIOs and Public Relations locally and regionally.

State has instructed that all media inquiries coming in at the local level be directed to the state level.

## **EPIDEMIOLOGIST:**

3 positive cases in Maryland in Montgomery County. DC stated there are 2 positive cases in that jurisdiction.

The Maryland Department of Health has instituted a secure tracking database in each county, housed at the local health department. If and when cases are determined positive in the state laboratory/confirmed by CDC then state enters the patient information and monitoring of such patient/s becomes the task of the local health department.

In COVID-19, you will hear words being used to describe the stage of a person. These definitions come from CDC guidance:

**Symptoms compatible with COVID-19**, for the purpose of these recommendations, include subjective or measured fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.

**Self-observation** means people should remain alert for subjective fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. If they feel feverish or develop cough or difficulty breathing during the self-observation period, they should take their temperature, self-isolate, limit contact with others, and seek advice by telephone from a healthcare provider or their local health department to determine whether medical evaluation is needed.

**Self-monitoring** means people should monitor themselves for fever by taking their temperatures twice a day and remain alert for cough or difficulty breathing. If they feel feverish or develop measured fever, cough, or difficulty breathing during the self-monitoring period, they should self-isolate, limit contact with others, and seek advice by telephone from a healthcare provider or their local health department to determine whether medical evaluation is needed.

**Self-monitoring with delegated supervision** means, for certain occupational groups (e.g., some healthcare or laboratory personnel, airline crew members), self-monitoring with oversight by the appropriate occupational health or infection control program in coordination with the health department of jurisdiction. The occupational health or infection control personnel for the employing organization should establish points of contact between the organization, the self-monitoring personnel, and the local or state health departments with jurisdiction for the location where personnel will be during the self-monitoring period. This communication should result in agreement on a plan for medical evaluation of personnel who develop fever, cough, or difficulty breathing during the self-monitoring period. The plan should include instructions for notifying occupational health and the local public health authority, and transportation arrangements to a pre-designated hospital, if medically necessary, with advance notice if fever, cough, or difficulty breathing occur. The supervising organization should remain in contact with personnel through the self-monitoring period to oversee self-monitoring activities.

**Self-monitoring with public health supervision** means public health authorities assume the responsibility for oversight of self-monitoring for certain groups of people. The ability of jurisdictions to initiate or provide continued oversight will depend on other competing priorities (e.g., contact tracing, implementation of community mitigation strategies). Depending on local priorities, CDC recommends that health departments consider establishing initial communication with these people, provide a plan for self-monitoring and clear instructions for notifying the health department before the person seeks health care if they develop fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. As resources allow, health authorities may also check in intermittently with these people over the course of the self-monitoring period. If travelers for whom public health supervision is recommended are identified at a US port of entry, CDC will notify state and territorial health departments with jurisdiction for the travelers' final destinations.

**Active monitoring** means that the state or local public health authority assumes responsibility for establishing regular communication with potentially exposed people to assess for the presence of fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. For people with high-risk exposures, CDC recommends this communication occurs at least once each day. The mode of communication can be determined by the state or local public health authority and may include telephone calls or any electronic or internet-based means of communication.

**Close contact** is defined as:

a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case

– or –

b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)

**Public health orders are legally enforceable directives** issued under the authority of a relevant federal, state, or local entity that, when applied to a person or group, may place restrictions on the activities undertaken by that person or group, potentially including movement restrictions or a requirement for monitoring by a public health authority, for the purposes of protecting the public's health. Federal, state, or local public health orders may be issued to enforce isolation, quarantine or conditional release. The list of quarantinable communicable diseases for which federal public health orders are authorized is defined by Executive Order and includes "severe acute respiratory syndromes." COVID-19 meets the definition for "severe acute respiratory syndromes" as set forth in Executive Order 13295, as amended by Executive Order 13375 and 13674, and, therefore, is a federally quarantinable communicable disease.

**Isolation** means the separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be *infected with a communicable disease and potentially infectious* from those who are not

infected to prevent spread of the communicable disease. Isolation for public health purposes may be voluntary or compelled by federal, state, or local public health order.

**Quarantine** in general means the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been *exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic*, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.

**Conditional release** defines a set of legally enforceable conditions under which a person may be released from more stringent public health movement restrictions, such as quarantine in a secure facility. These conditions may include public health supervision through in-person visits by a health official or designee, telephone, or any electronic or internet-based means of communication as determined by the CDC Director or state or local health authority. A conditional release order may also place limits on travel or require restriction of a person's movement outside their home.

**Controlled travel** involves exclusion from long-distance commercial conveyances (e.g., aircraft, ship, train, bus). For people subject to active monitoring, any long-distance travel should be coordinated with public health authorities to ensure uninterrupted monitoring. Air travel is not allowed by commercial flight but may occur via approved noncommercial air transport. CDC may use public health orders or [federal public health travel restrictions](#) to enforce controlled travel. CDC also has the authority to issue travel permits to define the conditions of interstate travel within the United States for people under certain public health orders or if other conditions are met.

**Congregate settings** are crowded public places where close contact with others may occur, such as shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums.

**Social distancing** means remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.

**As excerpted from the CDC website – ‘It is anticipated that older adults and people with severe chronic medical conditions seem to be at higher risk for more severe COVID-19 illness.’**

There have been a far greater number of deaths from influenza follow the guidance issued for what can be done at home and work settings and if you haven't gotten a flu shot, while it is not a cure, it may help lessen symptoms if you are inflicted with influenza.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE SUPERVISOR –**

The Dept of Health's responsibility at the local level, for any type of infectious disease, is to assist with determining whether a patient does/does not have a disease; help to identify the source; determine testing; instruct if isolation is necessary; and educate.

One tool that has been developed and is in use at the public schools by the school nurses is a questionnaire that will be used when a child presents sick to the nurse's office.

A modified version is also in place with the AERS team – Adult Evaluation Review Services.

Other units at the health department that see patients/perform dental work are also screening patients.

*The Governor's announcement on Friday regarding positive cases in Maryland was the threshold for the health department/Infectious diseases unit to establish/man a call-center. Once in full-force, this information will be published on the website/social media outlets.*

You all need to be pushing out the message to your workers, volunteers, etc.: If you are sick, you need to stay home, and if your child is sick, do not send them to school.

## **CCDOH Planning, Preparedness and Coordination:**

Reviewed and updated our Infectious Disease Plan (which is applicable for known and emerging disease outbreaks); reviewed and where necessary, updated our Continuity of Operations Plan; have established a core team and are prepared to move to an incident command structure is/when needed; we have provided updates to the commissioners and to Emergency Services;

and reached out to you, our partners for this meeting, and will establish ongoing outreach/updates with information through the PIO.