

EMS Focus

A Collaborative Federal Webinar Series

What EMS and 911 Need to Know about COVID-19

Today

- ▶ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update
- ▶ Guidance for EMS and 911
- ▶ Federal Response
- ▶ Questions

Today's Speakers



- ▶ CAPT Lisa Delaney, MS, CIH
Associate Director for Emergency Preparedness and Response
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



- ▶ Jonathan Greene
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Director, Emergency Management and Medical Operations
HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

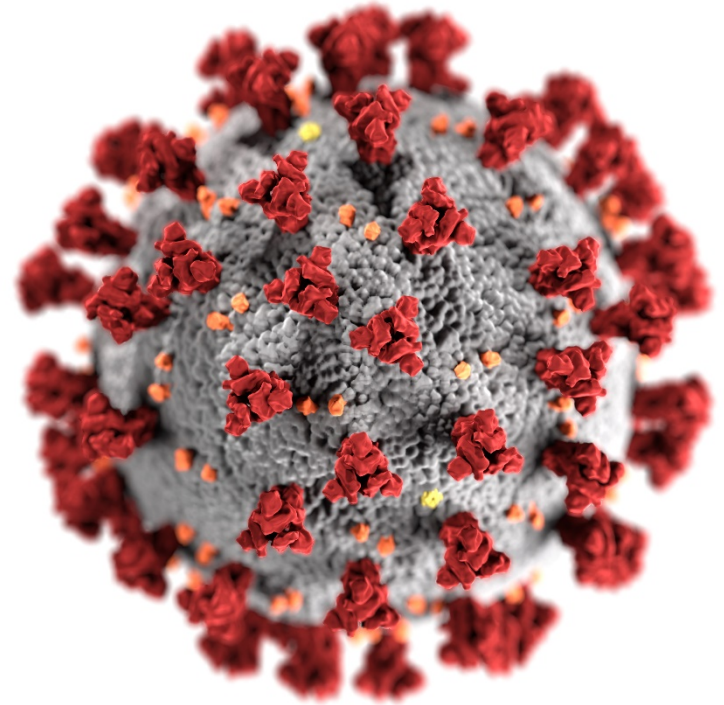


- ▶ Jon Krohmer, MD, FACEP, FAEMS
Director
NHTSA Office of EMS

Coronavirus 101

CAPT Lisa J. Delaney, MS, CIH

February 24, 2020



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Overview of Presentation

- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- CDC Response
- Interim EMS Guidance



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



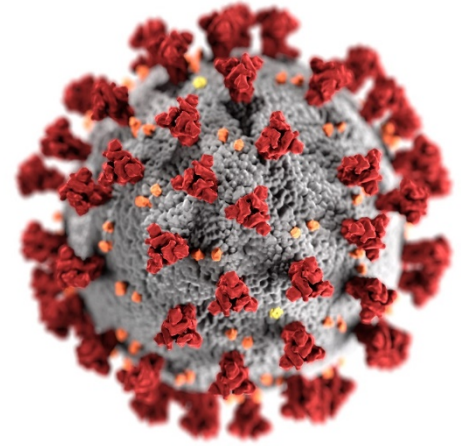
COVID-19: Emergence

- Identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019
- Caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2
- Early on, many patients were reported to have a link to a large seafood and live animal market
- Later patients did not have exposure to animal markets
 - Indicates person-to-person spread
- Travel-related exportation of cases reported
 - First US case: January 21, 2020
- CDC is reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases in the US online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html



How It Spreads

- Investigations are ongoing to better understand spread
- Largely based on what is known from other coronaviruses
 - Presumed to occur primarily through close person-to-person contact
 - May occur when respiratory droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
 - Possibly by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes



SYMPTOMS* OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

*** Symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure. If you have been in China within the past 2 weeks and develop symptoms, call your doctor.**

www.cdc.gov/COVID19



COVID-19: Prevention & Treatment

Everyday preventive actions for respiratory illnesses

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Treatment

- No specific antiviral treatment licensed for COVID-19
- Supportive care to
 - Relieve symptoms
 - Manage pneumonia and respiratory failure



CDC Response



CDC Response

- Established COVID-19 IM System on January 7
 - Activated EOC on January 21 to better provide ongoing support
 - Deployed multidisciplinary teams to support state and local health departments
- Coordinating closely with state and local partners on identifying cases early, conducting case investigations, and learning about the virology, transmission, and clinical spectrum for this disease.
- Continue to develop and refine guidance for multiple audiences, including first responders



Current Situation

- To date, 30 international locations (in addition to the U.S.) have reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection.
- Two instances of person-to-person spread with this virus in the U.S. have been detected.
 - Both cases after close, prolonged contact with a returned traveler from Wuhan.
- While the immediate risk of this new virus to American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat.

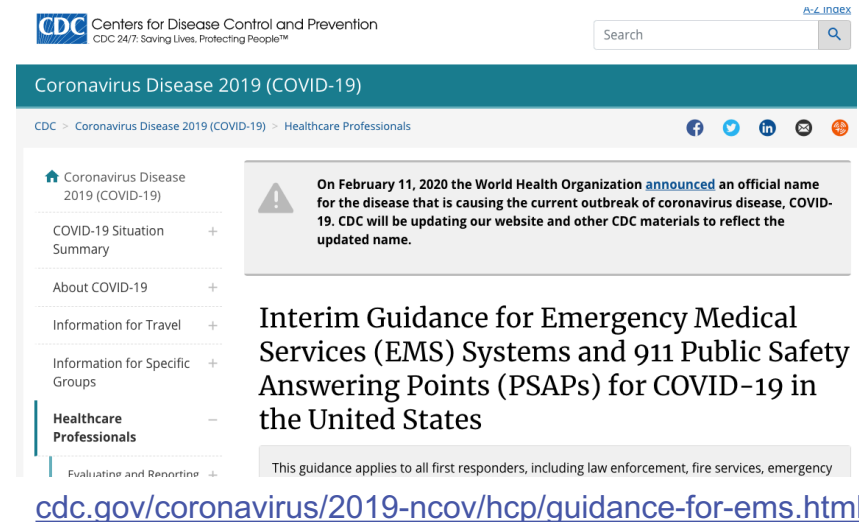


Interim Guidance for EMS and 911



Interim Guidance for EMS and 911

- EMS vital in responding and providing emergency medical treatment for ill persons
- EMS present unique challenges in working environment
- Coordination between PSAPs and EMS critical



The screenshot shows the CDC website page for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) under the Healthcare Professionals section. The page features a navigation menu on the left with options like 'COVID-19 Situation Summary', 'About COVID-19', 'Information for Travel', 'Information for Specific Groups', 'Healthcare Professionals', and 'Evaluating and Reporting'. A prominent warning box states: 'On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the current outbreak of coronavirus disease, COVID-19. CDC will be updating our website and other CDC materials to reflect the updated name.' Below this, the main heading reads 'Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the United States'. A note at the bottom of the page states: 'This guidance applies to all first responders, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency'. The URL cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html is provided at the bottom.



Recommendations for 911 PSAPs

- Determine need for modified caller queries
 - Question callers and determine the possibility that call concerns a person who may have signs or symptoms and risk factors for COVID-19
- Coordinate with EMS medical director
- Informed by local, state, and federal public health
- PSAPs and EMS responding to international airports should be in contact with CDC Quarantine Station or local jurisdiction



Patient Assessment

- If PSAP provided information to EMS
 - Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- If no information provided from PSAP
 - Initial assessment should begin 6 feet from patient
- Facemask worn by patient for source control



Recommended PPE

- Direct care
 - Single pair of disposable examination gloves
 - Disposable isolation gown
 - Respiratory protection (N95 or higher)
 - Eye protection (goggles or disposable faceshield)
- Drivers (isolated and not isolated)
- Doffing of PPE



Precautions for Aerosol-Generating Procedures (AGPs)

- Recommends consulting with medical control prior to performing AGPs
- Provides examples of AGPs
- Exposure control procedures
 - Keep rear doors open
 - Ensure HVAC system is operating



EMS Transport of a PUI or Patient with Confirmed COVID-19

- Notify receiving healthcare facility so appropriate precautions can be put in place
- Discourage family and contacts from riding in transport vehicle
- Isolate the vehicle driver from patient compartment:
 - Close window between compartments
 - Ventilation on non-recirculated mode
- Document patient care



Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles after Transporting PUI or Patient

- PPE for cleaning
 - Disposable gown and gloves
 - Facemask and goggles or faceshield if splashes anticipated
- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures following standard operating procedures
- Use products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims



Follow-up and/or Reporting Measures

- Notify state or local public health authorities for follow-up
- Develop policies for assessing exposure risk and management of EMS personnel
- Report any potential exposure to chain of command
- Watch for fever or respiratory symptoms



EMS Employer Responsibilities

- Not specific to COVID-19
- Assess current practices and policies
 - Infection control
 - Job- or task-specific education and training
 - PPE training and supply
 - Decontamination processes and supplies



CDC Resources

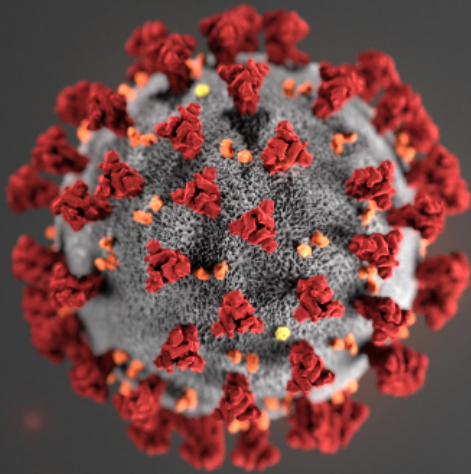
- Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the US
 - www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings
 - <https://go.usa.gov/xd9dY>



CDC Resources

- Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment
 - <https://go.usa.gov/xd9pf>
- Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators
 - <https://go.usa.gov/xd9pA>
- Considerations for Selection of Respirators in Healthcare
 - <https://go.usa.gov/xd9pU>





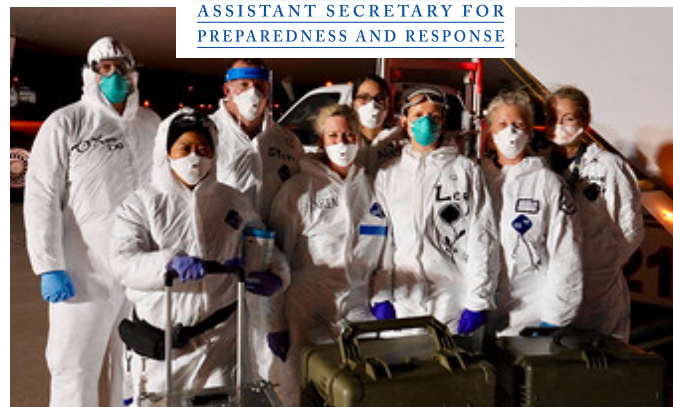
For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



ASPR Response

- ▶ HHS Coordination
 - ▷ ASPR's role
 - ▷ Secretary's Operations Center (SOC) activation
 - ▷ Activities of other agencies
- ▶ Supply chain issues
- ▶ Mitigation planning



Local EMS Considerations

- ▶ PPE supplies
- ▶ 911 and EMD call-taking activities
- ▶ Appropriate approach to potential patients
- ▶ Education resources for EMS personnel
- ▶ Interaction with local public health / health care systems / emergency management
- ▶ Interaction with local fire and law enforcement
- ▶ Considerations for local jails



The screenshot shows the EMS.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EMS.gov logo, a search bar, and links for 'RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES' and 'CONTACT'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'HOME', 'PROJECTS', 'INITIATIVES', 'FICEMS', 'NEMSAC', and 'NEWS & EVENTS'. The main content area features a 'Related Content' sidebar on the left with links to 'Projects' (Stop the Bleed Initiative, EMS and the Opioid Crisis), 'Webinars' (New MUCG Guidelines, Reducing Opioid Overdoses), and 'Articles' (Discussion EMS Issues, New Triage Guidelines, NEMAC Addresses Opioids, emPOWER Helps EMS, Stop the Bleed). The main article is titled 'PREPAREDNESS' and includes a warning icon. The article text reads: 'Fostering collaboration across the Federal government to enhance readiness for catastrophic incidents'. Below the title, there is a paragraph: 'Large-scale catastrophic incidents such as natural disasters, epidemics, air or rail crashes, infrastructure/utility outages, extreme weather and terrorist attacks, can happen anywhere, with little or no warning, and can have devastating effects on communities. Experience has shown that EMS systems are essential to the nation's preparation for emergency medical response to such incidents.'

Questions?

Please submit questions through the webinar platform

Resources:

CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

CDC Interim Guidance for EMS 911 PSAPs for COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

EMS Infectious Disease PLAYBOOK

<https://www.ems.gov/pdf/ASPR-EMS-Infectious-Disease-Playbook-June-2017.pdf>

NETEC EMS HHCD Awareness

vimeo.com/393298804/d84e02e89b

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