Garrett County COVID-19 UPDATE

For Garrett County Chamber of Commerce Webinar
March 25, 2020
Agenda

❖ Opening Remarks
  ➢ Nicole Christian, President & CEO, GC Chamber of Commerce

❖ Status of COVID-19 in the State
  ➢ Bob Stephens, MS, GCHD Director/Health Officer

❖ Medical and Epidemiology
  ➢ Cindy Mankamyer, RN

❖ Business Operations
  ➢ Steve Sherrard, LEHS, GC Director of Environmental Health

❖ Questions
  ➢

❖ Closing Remarks
  ➢ Nicole Christian
COVID-19

Basic Facts
What is a pandemic?

**Pandemic:** adjective
: occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population

**Pandemic:** noun
: an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population
: a pandemic outbreak of a disease
What is a pandemic?

- Bubonic Plague (Black Death): (1346-1353) Death toll: 75-200 million
- Flu (Spanish): (1918-20) Death Toll: 20-50 million
- Bubonic Plague (Justinian): (541-542) Death Toll: 25 million
- Smallpox or measles (Antonine Plague): (165) Death Toll: 5 million
- Flu (Hong Kong): (1968) Death Toll: 1 million
- Cholera (3rd Pandemic): (1852-1860) Death Toll: 1 million
- Smallpox: (1870) Death Toll: 800,000

Epidemic
- Mexico-Cocoliztli (Great Pestilence): (1545) Death Toll: 12-15 million
- Mexico-Small Pox: (1520) Death Toll: 8 million
Basic Facts

- *Coronaviruses* are a family of viruses that cause disease in animals, humans, including the common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)
- COVID-19 is a new or novel coronavirus, also called SARS-CoV-2
Transmission and Symptoms

- Spreads person-to-person, primarily through respiratory droplets (cough, sneeze)
- Can be picked up from surfaces
- Incubation period: 2 – 14 days, 5 days on average
- Symptoms:
  - Fever, cough, shortness of breath; some GI symptoms
 Reported Cases in US as of 3/24/2020

- 54,812 cases reported to CDC (10X number from one week ago)
- Underestimate of actual cases due to testing challenges
- Number of actual cases significant higher
Reported Cases in MD as of 3/24/2020

https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/
Epidemiology of COVID-19

- COVID-19 first identified in Asia, but now circulating globally
- First cases in Maryland identified 3/5/2020
- No one ethnic or racial group is at greater risk than others of developing COVID-19
- All age groups can be affected, though some at risk of more serious disease
Diagnosis and Testing

- Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient needs testing
- Mild disease may not require testing
- Priorities for testing in community settings include:
  - More serious illness suggesting the need for hospitalization
  - Risk of complications or more serious disease based on presence of risk factors
Risk Factors for Serious Disease

- Age > 60 years
- Heart or lung disease
- Liver or kidney disease
- Diabetes or other metabolic disease
- Immunosuppression
- Blood disorders
- Current or recent pregnancy (within 2 weeks)
- Neurologic or neurodevelopment disorders
Treatment and Prevention

- No specific medical treatment
- No vaccine at present
- Encourage influenza vaccination to prevent flu
Goals

- SLOW THE SPREAD
- PROTECT THE VULNERABLE
- MAINTAIN VITAL SERVICES
- ADJUST TO LOCAL CONDITIONS
- BE FLEXIBLE
- MAINTAIN NORMALCY IN ABNORMAL TIMES
Guidance for Homes and Families
Social Distancing at Home

- Keep at least 3 feet from others generally, 6 feet from people who are sick
- Limit face-to-face contact
- If you have a family member who is sick, stay home as well if told to do so by public health official or health care provider (Voluntary Home Quarantine)
If You Are Sick

- Stay home except for medical care
- Separate yourself from other people and animals
- Call ahead before seeing the doctor
- Wear a facemask *if you are sick*
- Always cover your cough and sneezes
- Don’t share household items
- Clean your hands, “high-touch” surfaces often
- Monitor your temperature and symptoms

*Facemasks are NOT recommended for people who are well or without symptoms*
Guidance for Non-Health Care Businesses
COVID-19 and Businesses

Governor’s Executive Orders and Related Actions:

- 3/5/2020 – Declares state of emergency
- 3/12/2020 – Limits on mass gatherings (> 250 people); also closure of cruise terminal at Port of Baltimore; extends licenses and permits until 30 days after end of state of emergency; activates level II of State Pandemic Influenza Plan for State employees
- 3/15/2020 – Casinos, tracks closed
- 3/16/2020 – Gatherings of > 50 people prohibited
- 3/16/2020 – MSDE closes all schools through 3/27/2020
- 3/16/2020 – Bars and restaurants closed
- 3/19/2020 – Gatherings of > 10 people prohibited
- 3/23/2020 – Closure of non-essential businesses
Prevention Strategies at Work

- Routine environmental cleaning, especially “high-touch” surfaces
- Communicate openly with employees about COVID-19 – avoid stigma towards staff, customers
- For employees who are traveling:
  - Check [CDC Traveler’s Health Notices](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) for guidance related to travel
  - Advise employees to take their temperature, not travel if they are feeling sick
  - Employees on travel should notify employers and refrain from travel while feeling sick
Social Distancing at Work

- Limit close face-to-face work generally
- Adopt strategies to promote social distancing among staff, clients
- Consider alternatives to in-person meetings
  - Encourage conference calls, telework wherever possible, especially when recommended by public health officials
Strategies for Employers

- Tele-work if possible (Best option)
- Re-engineer work spaces to avoid high touch surfaces
- Clean!
- Employees who become sick should be isolated or sent home
- Encourage sick employees to stay home:
  - Promote policies that encourage employees to stay home when they or family members are sick
  - Encourage companies that provide contractual employees to adopt these policies
Return to Work

- People diagnosed with COVID-19 (confirmed by testing or based on clinical assessment and guidance)
  - Minimum of 7 days after symptom onset AND
  - No temperature of 100.4°F [38°C] or greater for 72 hours (no antifever medication like acetaminophen) AND
  - Other symptoms substantially improved (cough may persist for 1 – 2 weeks)
- No need for a “clearance” or post-illness test
- Employers should not require a health care provider’s note or any COVID-19 test for employees to return to work
  - Healthy people should not and will not be able to see providers and most people will not be tested
Environmental Cleaning

- Cleaning should emphasize “high-touch” areas
- EPA list of disinfectants registered for use against COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) available at: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2
Continuity of Operations Plans and COVID-19

- Review HR policies and practices to ensure consistency with laws, health department guidance
- Adopt policies where possible to promote social distancing, flexible work practices, including telecommuting
- Clearly identify triggers for activating COOP
- Ensure communications in place to rapidly notify personnel of changes in situation
- Be aware of other events that may affect operations/staffing (e.g., child care, school closures)
- Monitor travel status of employees
Maryland Department of Labor
labor.maryland.gov

Division of Unemployment Insurance
- If you are a claimant seeking assistance, please e-mail ui.inquiry@maryland.gov.
- If you are an employer seeking assistance, please e-mail dluiemployerassistance-labor@maryland.gov.
- If you are an employer seeking Bulk Claim Services for all affected employees, please e-mail UI.BulkClaim@maryland.gov.

Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
- If you have a licensing question, please e-mail dlopl-labor@maryland.gov.

Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning
- If you have a general workforce inquiry, please e-mail dldwdworkforcedevelopment-labor@maryland.gov.

Maryland Business Express
To access federal and state resources available to help businesses, visit businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus.
Concluding Remarks
COVID-19 and Businesses

Resources and References

- Maryland Department of Health Coronavirus Website (https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx)
- CDC Travel Website (https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/)
COVID-19 and Businesses

Resources for Specific Groups

COVID-19 and Businesses

Resources for Business

- For updated information, FAQs and access to services, go to Maryland Business Express: [https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus](https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus)