



COVID-19 UPDATE

Situation Update

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By the Numbers:

Global: 162,687

US: 3,244

Indiana:19

Allen County: 1 case that lives in another county but was living in Allen County temporarily when diagnosed.

Reminder about Transmission

In November 2019, a new virus emerged in Wuhan City, China causing a respiratory illness including pneumonia. The nature of COVID-19 (mild symptoms in most especially the young, asymptomatic during the initial days, able to be transmitted while asymptomatic for several days) allowed it to move among the world community virtually undetected in the initial weeks. Many people are unaware to the amount of global travel that happens every day for business, pleasure and medical missions. Due to an initial absence of testing and extremely limited access, the true extent of global transmission remains unknown. This past week the WHO declared the COVID-19 virus to have reached pandemic levels. The WHO feels confident that the COVID-19 virus has met the last criteria to become a pandemic, sustained and easily transmitted spread, person to person in multiple communities and countries across the world. The pandemic was declared on March 11th, but the global transmission has been occurring since the virus first emerged in 2019. That is why we know that despite the fact that we confirmed relatively few cases of COVID-19 in the US and in Indiana, science would tell us that we have likely had cases here for the past several weeks.

Our goal is to keep healthcare up and running to be able to meet the acute, chronic, and emergent needs of our citizens. To do this we must “flatten the curve” and slow transmission in our community to a pace that healthcare can manage. To that end we must implement social distancing measures early. If we wait too long, we will not be able to effectively manage



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the initial surge in cases. Effective measures to and attention to the call for social distancing has been successful in “flattening this curve”. The countries where the call for social distancing was ignored is still seeing an exponential rise in new cases each day. Some of these countries have seen their health systems capacity exceeded and overwhelmed and now face even more severe and needed restrictions. Health care must stand.

Local Groups that are Meeting:

- Healthcare, Pharmacy and EMS: (All hospitals) Goal is to have a consistent message among all hospitals and outpatient providers and a unified approach to triage for patients and utilization of very limited resources
- Outpatient Pharmacy: (All pharmacies) assist shoppers with readily identifying and accessing OTC respiratory products and assist patients with accessing prescriptions etc.
- Childcare for healthcare workers: (Angie Zaegel et al) identify means by which children of healthcare workers who do not have childcare can be cared for such that HCWs can attend work to keep healthcare running.
- Schools: (All superintendents) consistent decision to close; ensuring children have access to vital services such as food.
- Faith: (Rebecca Karcher, Roger Reece, Patsy Hendricks et al) consistent implementation of measures to reduce transmission during services and support the community through other faith based services.
- Business: (John Sampson, John Urbahns, and Gail Doran et al) ensure consistent messaging and situational communication among local businesses. Sharing of policies, etc. when feasible.
- Philanthropy: (Meg Distler, Patty Hays, Matthew Purkey et al) identify highest needs to develop a local strategy to “keep the lights on and food on the table” during an extended crisis; i.e. pandemic.
- Ethics (All hospitals): a consistent approach to provision of limited resources during a pandemic.



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- Mental Health (Stephen Jarrell, et al) consistent strategy to address the pandemic associated mental health needs of chronically mentally ill, the pandemic associated fear/mental health of the community and of healthcare workers.
- Food distribution: safely distributing food via normal measures in a way that minimizes COVID -19 transmission.
- Research: (Tammy Toscos et al) identify ways to obtain data that is pertinent to planning and other pandemic related issues.

Healthcare Update:

Attached are the most recent updates from ISDH on specimen collection/testing and patients who meet the criteria for testing. Highlights include:

- ONLY need NP swab to test at this time. So please only do the one swab.
 - FACEMASK is appropriate for care of these patients, and only need N95 for aerosol producing procedures.
 - During times of limited access to respirators or facemasks, facilities could consider having HCP remove only gloves and gowns (if used) and perform hand hygiene between patients with the same diagnosis (e.g., confirmed COVID-19) while continuing to wear the same eye protection and respirator or facemask (i.e., extended use). Risk of transmission from eye protection and facemasks during extended use is expected to be very low.
 - Any reusable PPE must be properly cleaned, decontaminated and maintained after and between uses.
 - Only symptomatic patients will be tested thru ISDH
 - Supplies of masks for patients to use for “source” control are really limited. We have requested ISDH petition the federal government for the stockpile and they have.
 - Testing equipment is also getting limited.
 - One case in identified in an Allen County long term care facility. Required multiple healthcare workers to go into quarantine. This is in addition to the HCWs in last week’s urgent care exposure. Expect staffing shortages.
- Will convene ethics committee to develop consistent policy on allocation of resources during pandemic.



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Schools:

All of the local school districts, after discussion post Board of Health emergency meeting, and following the actions from other school districts in Indiana as well as Governor declarations in 13 other states at the time elected to close on Friday. Most schools will remain closed until the return from spring break. They are now focused on how to provide lunch for those at risk and to continue to support learning.

Nationally:

- Large gatherings of varied sizes 250 to 1000 persons have been banned. CDC recommends avoiding crowds of 50 or more. Other states are closing restaurants and bars to better implement social distancing. Other cities are locking down. Most national sports leagues have canceled or postponed their seasons. Conventions have been canceled. Theme parks are closed. International flights are being canceled to and from Europe.

- Great quote from Dr. Fauci, Director of NIAID "What I like to see is when people look at what we're doing and say, 'You're overreacting,'" he said. "For me, the dynamics and the history of outbreaks is you're never where you think you are. If you think you're in line with the outbreak, you're already three weeks behind. So you got to be almost overreacting a bit to keep up with it."