

# Briefing Regarding COVID-19

Matthew N. Jackson, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM  
Medical Director of Prehospital and EMS  
OSF Healthcare

# Background COVID-19

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- Recent initial outbreak of severe respiratory disease in Wuhan China caused by a coronavirus.
- The disease it causes has been named Coronavirus Disease 2019, or “COVID-19” for short
- Declared “Public health emergency of international concern” on January 30.  
Declared a Public Health Emergency in the US on January 31 to help start preparations



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# What is it?

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- Coronaviruses are a common family of viruses that typically cause acute respiratory illness
- Complete clinical picture of COVID-19 not fully understood
- Illnesses have ranged from mild-severe



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# Current situation

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- As of 03/10/2020, there have been **116,335 cases worldwide.**
- 761 cases in the US
- 11 cases in Illinois
- No identified cases yet in Peoria area, or outside of Chicago.
- Healthcare community is actively preparing and are in continual communication with public health officials.



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# Current situation

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- Overall, the risk to the general US population remains low
- **In comparison:**
  - **Per the CDC, there have been 5-million flu illnesses, 140,000 hospitalizations, and 8,200 deaths in the US.**



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# Spread

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- Felt to spread predominately from person-to-person within close contact with one another (within 6 feet distance)
- Through respiratory droplets via sneezing or coughing



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# Symptoms

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- Generally appear 2-14 days after exposure
- Majority of cases are initially characterized by fever (up to 98% of cases), and a cough (up to 82% of cases).
- Sore throat has also been reported early in the course.
- Less common symptoms include headache, and diarrhea.
- **Asymptomatic infection has also been described**



# Risk Factors for severe illness

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- Not entirely clear yet, but seem to affect older patients and those with chronic medical problems more severely.
  - Lung disease, cancer, heart failure, renal, and liver disease, diabetes, immunocompromising conditions
  - Potential for worsening disease in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of illness
  - Most cases have been in adults (median age of onset is 59 yo).





# Treatment

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- Largely supportive:
  - Isolation/Quarantine
  - No specific treatment is available. Vaccines and some antivirals in trials but no data available.



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# EMS dispatch and response

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- Enacting Pandemic Response Protocol-Card 36 (pandemic/flu response), adapted to COVID-19
- 3 levels of response
  - Level 1- Surveillance (no cases identified yet).
  - Level 2- Positive cases in the area
  - Level 3- resource levels low (due to quarantine and/or call volume).
- Level 1 began today for Peoria and Peoria County



# 911 Dispatch

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- Questions by dispatchers kept broad to catch as many cases as possible.
  - Fever and respiratory symptoms
- Providers will then ask about exposure risks on scene.



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# Patient Assessment

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- Initial assessment will begin from a distance of at least 6 feet “from the door assessment”
- Questions will be asked of the patient:
  - Has s/he traveled in the last 14 days (if so, where?)
  - If yes, confirmed travel from a known infected area?
  - Contact with a person who has traveled from a known infected area in the last 14 days?



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# Patient Assessment

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- If questions positive → Provider dons appropriate protective equipment
- Patient will have surgical mask placed prior to moving or initiating care.
- All non-essential personnel will be kept outside, and dismissed when able.
- Family members will not be allowed to ride in the ambulance, and will be instructed to home quarantine



# Keep At Home pathway

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- Most patients expected to have fairly mild or manageable disease, and can safely manage illness at home.
- During level 2 and 3 of the dispatch protocol, crews will be doing a thorough assessment, and advising select patients to stay at home.



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# At home isolation Level II-III

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- Lack of priority symptoms
- Lack of comorbid conditions
- Under age of 50
- Stable vital signs
- Physician Medical Control will be contacted in all cases, and must give approval.

Patients will be given detailed instructions for home care, and follow up, and will be instructed to call local health departments and their primary care provider/clinic for further instructions.



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# General instructions to public

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- Prevention is most important area that the public can impact
  - Avoid touching face, especially after being in public
  - Good hand hygiene- frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizers
  - Avoid contact with others who are ill



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# General instructions to public

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- Take care of yourself if ill
  - Stay at home if you are ill
  - Cover cough and sneezes
  - Call ahead prior to visiting your doctor
  - Avoid contact with others



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# Summary

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- **No need to panic!**
  - Risk to population is still considered low
  - No cases yet in downstate Illinois
  - Overall, most cases are manageable.
- Local health care community and public service sectors are actively preparing and protocols are being implemented.
- Situation is actively being monitored, and is considered fluid, and updates will be made where it is warranted.

QUESTIONS??



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