Presentation Overview

- COVID-19 outbreak
- Transmission and symptoms
- Treatment and testing
- Prevention
- Travel advisories
- Public health monitoring
COVID-19 OUTBREAK
COVID-19 Updates

• On March 1, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) reported Florida’s first two cases of COVID-19 in Hillsborough and Manatee County residents.

• As a result, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-51, directing a Public Health Emergency and establishing Florida’s Response Protocol for COVID-19.

• The State Surgeon General issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency for the State of Florida.
Outbreak of a New Coronavirus was Detected in Late 2019

- Respiratory illness outbreak first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China
- First cases linked to a seafood and live animal market
- Person-to-person spread
- Spread to other countries, including the United States
- As of 10 a.m. March 8, 2020:
  - 164 cases in U.S.
  - 17* cases in Florida
• The outbreak started in Wuhan, China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other locations internationally, including the United States.
  • Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) in their coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation report.

• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported community based transmission of the virus in California and Washington in late February 2020.
TRANSMISSION AND SYMPTOMS
COVID-19 Most Often Spreads from Person to Person

• Spread through respiratory droplets from an infected person who coughs or sneezes
• Spread among close contacts

Within about 6 feet
Symptoms Can Appear 2–14 Days After Exposure

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty Breathing
TREATMENT AND TESTING
No Specific Treatment for COVID-19 at This Time

The CDC recommends people who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should call their county health department immediately and self-isolate.
Testing is Currently Only Available through Public Health

• The CDC developed a test for COVID-19.
• The DOH Bureau of Public Health Laboratories are testing with CDC’s test kits.
• The Food and Drug Administration, who approved the test, requires that presumptive positive results are sent to CDC for confirmation.
• Commercial testing is not available yet.
• For persons who meet CDC and DOH criteria for COVID-19 testing, your health care provider can work with your local health department to test you.
International Travel or Contact with a COVID-19 Case May Put You at Risk

- People who have traveled internationally in the last 14 days, especially to identified areas: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html#map.
- People who have had close contact with someone known to have COVID-19.
- Risks may change over time.
- For more information: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV.
If you think you are at risk and have symptoms of fever, cough or difficulty breathing, take these steps:

• Call ahead to your health care provider and tell them about your travel or exposure and your symptoms.
  • You can only get COVID-19 from someone with the disease.
• Avoid contact with others.
• Do not travel while sick.
• Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
• Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
Prevent Infection by Following Routine Respiratory Disease Prevention Measures

- Wash hands with soap and water
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth, and avoid close contact with sick people
- Stay home when sick
TRAVEL ADVISORIES
COVID-19 Travel Updates

• It is prudent for travelers who are sick to delay or avoid travel to affected areas.

• General recommendations for personal hygiene, cough etiquette and keeping a distance of at least one meter from persons showing symptoms remain particularly important for all travelers. These include:
  • Perform hand hygiene frequently
    • Hand hygiene includes either cleaning hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand rub.
  • Cover your nose and mouth with a flexed elbow or paper tissue when coughing or sneezing and disposing immediately of the tissue and performing hand hygiene
  • Refrain from touching mouth and nose
  • A medical mask is not required if exhibiting no symptoms
    • If masks are to be worn, it is critical to follow best practices on how to wear, remove and dispose of them and on hand hygiene after removal.
CDC Travel Advisories

To countries with sustained community or widespread transmission.

As of March 2, 2020:

• China
• Iran
• South Korea
• Italy
• Japan

CDC Provides a Health Alert for Travelers

HEALTH ALERT: Travelers from China
There is an outbreak of respiratory illness in China.

Travelers are required to be monitored for up to 14 days after leaving China.

Some people may have their movement restricted or be asked to limit contact with others within this 14-day period. A health official will contact you to give additional instructions.

Take your temperature with a thermometer twice a day and watch your health.

If you develop a fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), cough, or have difficulty breathing:

- Call ahead to your doctor or health official for medical advice before seeking care.
- Tell them your symptoms and that you were in China.
- Give them this card.

Triage Staff/Clinicians:

- Use standard, contact, and airborne precautions, and eyeprotection.
- Notify infection control and your state/local health department immediately.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/ncov
DOH is Monitoring those Possibly Exposed

• Personnel at the agency’s 67 county health departments (CHDs) and central office in Tallahassee work together to protect Floridians from emerging diseases.

• DOH receives information from CDC on U.S. citizens/residents/family returning from impacted areas.

• CHDs work with travelers to restrict their movement, monitor for illness, isolate persons with symptoms, and ensure health care providers use proper infection control techniques.
DOH Monitoring Process

For people who may have been exposed, but have no symptoms:

• Monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
• Self isolate for 14 days.
  • Stay home as much as possible.
  • Avoid travel on publicly used vehicles, gathering with groups of people, and going out in public.
  • Excluded from work, school, and other public places.
• Follow provided education on prevention of spread.
Those with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 are Asked to Take Precautions

• Immediately isolate at home or health care facility.
• Do not participate public activities such as work or school.
• Only travel by ambulance or private car and avoid public transportation.
• Always wear a mask when around other people or pets at home.
• Always cover your coughs and sneezes and clean your hands often.

Immediate Risk to Americans Remains Low

• More cases in the U.S. are likely to be identified in the coming days.
• There is currently limited person-to-person spread in the community, but this may change.
• Everyone can do their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.
DOH Resources:

• FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19
• COVID-19 Call Center: 1-866-779-6121
• Email: COVID-19@flhealth.gov
Visit these Websites to Learn More

CDC Resources:
Questions?

Holly Smith, DC
Communications Mgr/Government Liaison
Florida Department of Health
March 9, 2020