COVID-19 Business Update

Maryland Department of Health

March 18, 2020
Agenda

❖ Opening Remarks
  ➢ Russ Strickland, Director, MEMA

❖ Status of COVID-19 in the State
  ➢ Dr. Clifford Mitchell, MDH

❖ Business Operations
  ➢ Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary of Commerce

❖ Labor and Employment Issues
  ➢ Tiffany P. Robinson, Secretary of Labor

❖ Closing Remarks
  ➢ Allegra Tartaglia, MEMA
COVID-19

Basic Facts
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

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Reported Cases in US as of 3/17/2020

- 4,226 cases reported to CDC
- Underestimate of actual cases due to testing challenges
- Number of actual cases significant higher

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Reported Cases

- None
- 1 to 5
- 6 to 10
- 11 to 20
- 21 to 50
- 101 to 200
- 201 to 500
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Reported Cases in MD as of 3/17/2020

❖ 57 confirmed cases in Maryland

https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/
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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 often 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
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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 Communities
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)
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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
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State Actions to Slow Transmission

❖ 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
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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
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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Employees who are not sick do not need to wear masks or respirators – CDC does not recommend these (except in health care settings)

- Other PPE should be based on risks for infectious disease generally (gloves for food handlers, etc.), not specifically for COVID-19

- Employees who are sick should not be at work, whether with a face mask or not – in exceptional circumstances, employees who are symptomatic should wear a face mask to reduce droplet transmission
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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
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Strategies for Employers

❖ Employees who become sick should be isolated, sent to medical 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
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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
Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary of Commerce

Business Operations
COVID-19 and Businesses

Information for Businesses

❖ For updates, FAQs and access to services, go to Maryland Business Express: (https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus)

❖ Email additional questions to Secretary.Commerce@Maryland.gov
Tiffany P. Robinson, Secretary of Labor

Labor and Employment
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 dlwdworkforcedevelopment-labor@maryland.gov.

Maryland Business Express
To access federal and state resources available to help businesses, visit businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus.
Allegra Tartaglia

Concluding Remarks
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Resources and References

❖ Maryland Department of Health Coronavirus Website
  (https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx)


❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Homes and Communities

❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses

❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Childcare and Schools

❖ CDC Travel Website (https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/)

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Resources for Specific Groups

❖ Infection Prevention in the Home Setting

❖ Community- and Faith-Based Organizations

❖ Mass Gatherings and Large Community Events

❖ Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions for Specific Groups
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Resources for Business

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

❖ Email additional questions to Secretary.Commerce@Maryland.gov