

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

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# C VID-19

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March 10, 2020

# WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)?

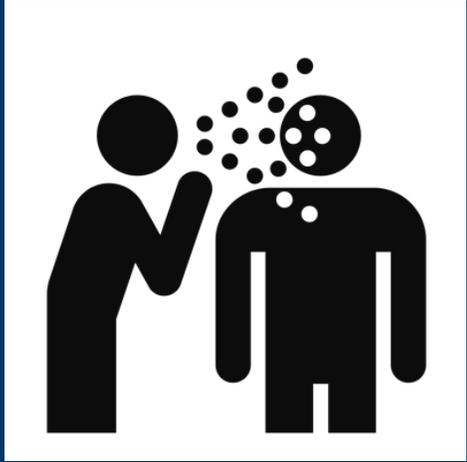
Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that are common among animals and humans. In rare cases, animal coronaviruses can be transmitted from animals to humans.

This novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is a newly discovered coronavirus that has not been previously detected in animals or humans. The source of this virus is not yet known.

# CURRENT STATUS

- 3 positive cases announced yesterday in the City of Long Beach
- All cases were travel related to locations with community spread
- Monitoring 10 Students and 2 Staff from CSULB who attended a conference in Washington DC.
- Monitoring dozens of people who have traveled to China, Iran, or on a cruise

# HOW DOES COVID-19 SPREAD?



Droplets from coughing and sneezing



Close personal contact, such as touching and shaking hands



Contact with infected surfaces or objects



Touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

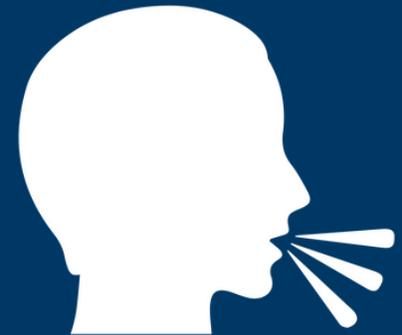
# WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?



**Fever**



**Shortness of  
Breath**



**Cough**

# HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?



Health care providers assess patients and consult with the Health Department on whether testing is indicated by the CDC.

# AM I AT RISK?

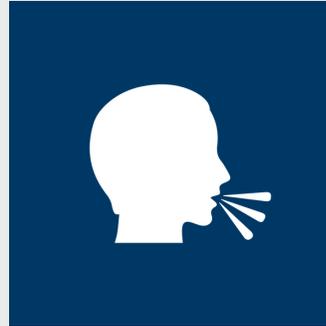


I have traveled within the last two weeks.

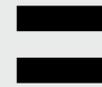
**OR**



I have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19.



I have become ill with fever and cough or shortness of breath.



**Contact your healthcare provider to determine if testing is needed.**

\*Risk factors subject to change.

# WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

**Most people will recover on their own. There are no specific treatments for COVID-19.**

# HOW DO I PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?



Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds.



Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Stay home if you are sick.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

# HANDWASHING 101

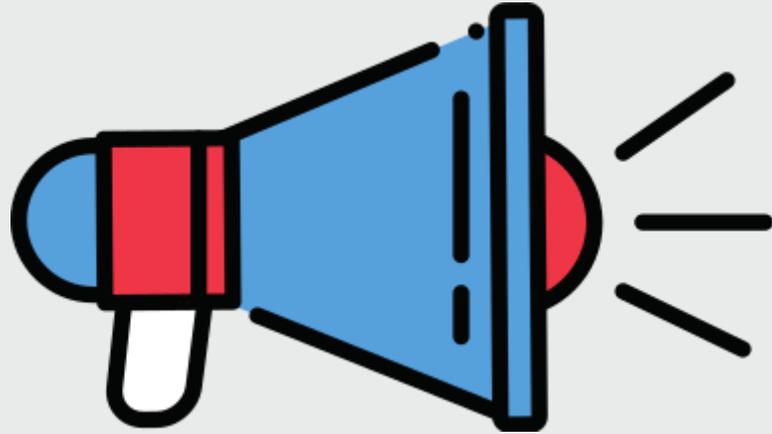
- 1. Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- 2. Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap
- 3. Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- 4. Rinse** hands well under clean, running water
- 5. Dry** hands using a clean towel or air dry them



# WHY THE EXTRA MEASURES?



- Because COVID-19 causes more severe illness compared to the flu.
- To protect vulnerable populations such as older adults and people who have severe chronic medical conditions.



# LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION

**MARCH 4, 2020**

# LONG BEACH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPT

- Leading public health emergency response,
- Health teams involved include City Health Officer, Public Health Emergency Management, Communicable Disease Control, with support of Public Health Nursing, Environmental Health and Clinical Services.
- **Current Activities:**
  - Tracking federal, state, and local guidance
  - Training health providers
  - Educating and communicating with public
  - Monitoring self-quarantine individuals
  - Consulting with health providers, City agencies, educational institutions, and community
  - Coordinating with providers to determine if testing is called for

# LONG BEACH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPT

## For each positive case:

- Conduct in-depth Investigation, including contact tracing, interviews, providing guidance, possible quarantine, testing
- Could be over 100 interviews and follow up per case depending on interactions.
- When positive and in isolation, patient must be tested every other day until virus screen is negative and CDC approves release.
- Diverting staff from other Health programs to support these efforts

# ALL HAZARDS INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

- The All Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT) is a multijurisdictional effort working collaboratively to plan for and manage all aspects of this incident.
- The IMT was activated on March 5 in response to the emergency declarations. Over 50 staff from City Departments have been working around the clock to ensure we are prepared city-wide.
- **In coordination with Public Health, the IMT has focused on:**
  - Maintaining Local, State, and National situational awareness
  - Providing for life safety of public, first responders and city employees.
  - Identifying and planning for the logistical support needs of responders
  - Forecasting potential contingencies and develop appropriate mitigation strategies.
  - Warehousing supplies
  - Identifying alternate care sites
  - Addressing situations for people experiencing homelessness

# JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC) #COVID19LONGBEACH

- Operates as part of IMT and is comprised of City PIO and communications staff from across City Departments.
- **Activated on March 6 and have been working every day from morning and well into the night to:**
  - Develop and disseminate proactive and response-driven timely communications via several channels
  - Dispel rumors by providing facts and updates
  - Engage with the news media and provide them information and timely updates
  - Monitor international, national, and local media stories to address potential impacts to our community
  - Respond to community questions and concerns

# PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS to date

- Health Care Provider and Hospital Safety
- Community Education and Notification
- Health and safety of staff and emergency responders
- Guidance to local restaurants and businesses
- Airport Preparedness
- Port and Cruise line Preparedness
- Guidance for Large Events/Mass Gatherings
- Guidance for Schools and School Closures
- Supporting Older Adults
- Supporting People Experiencing Homelessness

# SAFETY OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

## Healthcare outreach includes:

- LBUSD, Daycare Providers, Early Childhood Education Health Centers
  - Higher Education Health Centers – CSULB & LBCC
  - Local hospitals, Urgent cares, Skilled Nursing Facilities
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- Daily calls and ongoing in-person meetings with dozens of healthcare institutions including acute care, urgent cares, skilled nursing and student health centers to ensure updated guidance is disseminated
  - Trainings provided to health care providers
  - Website section for providers
  - Provider Health Alerts sent regularly
  - Triaging patients who may require testing with local providers and hospitals

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND NOTIFICATION

- Created [Longbeach.gov/COVID19](https://www.longbeach.gov/COVID19) as the central hub for up-to-date information for the public about the virus
- Implemented 570-INFO telephone line to respond to community questions and concerns
- Continue to push out timely social media posts across platforms and departments and engage in social threads to educate, provide facts and dispel rumors
- Developed graphics to support education about the virus in several languages
- Developed and disseminated videos to deliver safety messages and provide guidance

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND NOTIFICATION

- Developed and disseminated printed posters and notices as well as electronic signs and billboards across the City
- Provided to the news media responses to inquiries, City statements/press releases and a press conference so they can inform and educate their readers and viewers
- Live-streamed a press conference to provide the public with direct access to the latest news
- Developed and disseminated educational information and updates through the #GoLongBeach Newsletter
- Providing presentations for communities; 2 presentations conducted

# STAFF SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

## Workplace Safety Measures

- Staff trained in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Utilization
- Video being created to show to local City departments that may require PPE
- Procuring PPE given shortages nationwide – making sure City Departments have what they need to stay safe
- Developed walk-in protocols to prepare for the possibility of a member of the public with suspected COVID-19 entering City building
- Placed additional hand sanitizer in City buildings where lots of public interface
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing of public spaces in many City buildings
- Posted the steps for hand washing flyer and illness prevention tips flyer in all City restrooms and eating areas.

# STAFF SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

## Employee Communication

City is providing employees information on the status of COVID-19 prevention and response efforts in the City and workplace.

Communication strategy will include multi-faceted approach:

- Launch Internet website to allow employees to easily access workplace related information
- Weekly communication
- Payroll stuffers
- Mailer to home address
- E-mail blasts
- Video
- Townhall meeting and/or webinar for employees to call in if they are off-site
- Coordinate efforts with employee benefit providers (Anthem Blue Cross and EAP)
- Notice to unions

# STAFF SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

## Communication Items Issued to Date

- 2 Bulletins to City Employees
- Provided Guidance to all Employees on City Personnel Policies and Procedures 6.7 - Communicable Disease Prevention Program
- Launched City Internet Website resources for all employees, supervisors, and managers
- Administrative Officer Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, March 11, 2020

# GUIDANCE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

- Providing guidance and information to support preparedness for changes and various outcomes of disease spread.
- Developed a link on the COVID-19 website with guidance for various food facilities, childcare providers, ticketed events and other businesses.
- Environmental Health has established a phone line dedicated to COVID-19 calls from businesses (562-570-4129).



# AIRPORT RESPONSE

- Installed signage throughout airport
- Hourly disinfecting and cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces in public areas
- Placed hand sanitizer stations throughout airport; additional stations ordered
- Provided information on social media outlets and website on airport efforts with links to City of Long Beach COVID-19 information sites
- Increased coordination with Airport Partners; air carriers and concessionaries communicated enhanced cleaning protocols within respective locations



# PORT/CRUISELINE PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

- Coast Guard and CDC Quarantine Station has jurisdiction on international waters,
- The City Health Department and IMT coordinates closely with the CDC in the case of any medical illness, including suspect COVID-19,
- Coast Guard has directed that crew from ships coming from China will not disembark locally. Crew Members who may be ill are reported to CDC.

# GUIDANCE FOR LARGE EVENTS/MASS GATHERING

## **In current situation (no community transmission):**

- Event organizers should create an emergency contingency plan for how to modify, cancel, or postpone their mass gathering or large community event if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in their community.
- Events may need to be modified, canceled, or postponed if participants are traveling from communities with COVID-19 outbreaks.
- Message that people who are ill should remain home
- Provide sinks with soap, and plenty of hand sanitizer and tissues

## **If Identified community transmission in the city:**

- May need to cancel non-essential events
- If event continues, clear messaging re: who should self exclude
- Minimize close contact (hand shaking, hugging)

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

## Guidance for current status:

- Exclude students, teachers, or staff who have a travel history over the course of the last 14 days to an area identified by the CDC.
- Exclude those who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 from the school for 14 days from the day of their last exposure.
- Develop a plan to communicate with the school community.
- Encourage all students, families, and staff to take everyday preventive actions

## If more than 2 cases of community transmission in the City (not in the school)

- Teachers and staff should self screen and if have any fever and/or respiratory infection symptoms should not come to work.
- Limit visitors to campus.
- Stagger larger communal activities such as assemblies, lunch times

# GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES

## **If 1 or more cases in a single school:**

- In consultation with public health officials, closing the school may be warranted.

## **If 1 or more cases in multiple schools:**

- In consultation with public health officials, may close additional or all schools depending on the situation.

Upon any closure, school must have communications plans available for staff and community and consult with public health to determine when school/schools can reopen and allow for students to return

Schools should do all possible to ensure students' and staffs' privacy to help prevent discrimination or unnecessary stigmatization.

# OLDER ADULT SAFETY

- Held two meetings for health care facility staff which were attended by many skilled nursing facilities serving older adults.
- Providing CDC guidance for health care workers/facilities working with older adults.
- Responding to SNF questions and supporting decision making re: COVID19
- Developing more general messaging for older adults in the community.

# GUIDANCE AND RESPONSE FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- The Homeless Services Division (HSD) is working closely with the IMT and PHEM teams to address the risk of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness (PEH).
- Outreach teams are educating PEH throughout the city about the symptoms and what to do if they start experiencing them.
- Protocols for isolation and quarantine have been developed should a suspect case occur within an encampment.

# GUIDANCE AND RESPONSE FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- A location for temporarily isolating individuals otherwise unable to self-isolate has been established. A clinic at the MSC is prepared to triage, should the need arise.
- MSC will provide masks for those demonstrating flu like systems while accessing services.
- Preventive measures have been posted at the MSC, and provided to all service partners in the Continuum of Care.

# NEXT PHASE OF POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS

## The situation is ever changing

- Possible recommendations with increased cases and community spread may include:
  - Social distancing
  - Event cancelations
  - School closures or virtual learning
  - Working from home
  - Avoiding large events if at higher risk

**People should be preparing for these possibilities**

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## Requesting a ratification of the emergency Declaration

- Under City code, will return every 14 days unless waived by the Council
- Allows City to purchase quicker, waive certain internal rules as appropriate, hire quicker, and be eligible for reimbursement
- Costs will be tracked
- Financial impact unknown at this time – may result in release of emergency or other reserves
- Monetary assistance from Federal and State currently unclear

# LONGER TERM PLANNING REQUIRED

## Continuity of Government Planning Underway

- Need to plan if this becomes a sustained scenario
- Important to continue critical functions, continued function of the government, critical supplies and economic activity
- All Departments are reviewing and updating their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)
- Future fiscal impacts may also occur
  - Hotel Tax, Oil Prices, Port Revenue, Cruise Line Revenue, Airport Revenue, General Fund

## COVID-19 is at the Highest Priority

- Will result in delay and reprioritization of other work and staff
- Asking for understanding from our policy-makers and the community
- Staff fatigue will become an issue – will require long-term staffing maintenance plan
- Still many unknowns and will require us to adapt
- Will make the best decisions based on the information available

# RESPONSE HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL

## Incredibly proud of the team's response

- Communication has been quick, proactive and coordinated
- Incident command structure established and highly productive
- Dedication and commitment has been impressive
- Coordination and collaboration with partnerships with major entities
- Executive management highly engaged
- Tough questions being posed and planned for
- Scenario planning for multiple potential eventualities
- Strong support from our elected leaders

**@LBHEALTHDEPT**  
**#COVID19LongBeach**



**[WWW.LONGBEACH.GOV/COVID19](http://WWW.LONGBEACH.GOV/COVID19)**