



# Suffolk County COVID 2019 Response Summary & Guidance

PRESENTATION TO SUFFOLK COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

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# Coronavirus (COVID- 2019)

- ▶ Outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the US
- ▶ Began December 2019
- ▶ Symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath
  - ▶ Based on early data from China, approximately 80% of cases have mild symptoms
- ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Worldwide Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) January 30, 2020
- ▶ United States declared Public Health Emergency January 31, 2020

# Coronavirus (COVID- 2019)

- ▶ Current understanding about how the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses
- ▶ The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person
  - ▶ Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
  - ▶ Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- ▶ These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
- ▶ It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads

# Interagency Approach: Local Level

- ▶ Today's Meeting:
  - ▶ County Executive's Office
  - ▶ Health Services, including EMS
  - ▶ Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services
  - ▶ Police Department
  
- ▶ Overall Response has also included:
  - ▶ County Attorney's Office
  - ▶ Department of Social Services
  - ▶ Information Technology

# Public Health Perspective: This is what we are trained to do

- ▶ NYS Sanitary Code requires all local health departments to investigate, report, and provide outbreak control as needed for over 70 communicable diseases
  - ▶ While COVID-2019 is an emerging disease, we have an excellent public health team experienced in disease investigation and control
- ▶ Consistent with national priorities, our Public Health Emergency Preparedness team focuses on building and maintaining long term critical capacities including planning and assessment; surveillance; technology; risk communication; and education and training
  - ▶ Annually this team, along with County Police Department, EMS, FRES, Sheriff's Office, local ambulance companies, and hospital systems, participate in various drills and point of distribution (POD) activities to prepare for and respond to a variety of potential events including widespread illness and the accidental or intentional release of radiological, biological, or chemical agents.



# Examples of PODS and Drills Conducted

- ▶ December 2005: Three Day Full Scale Multi-Agency Pandemic Flu Exercise
- ▶ June 2006: Tabletop Quarantine/Isolation Exercise Simulating SARS epidemic
- ▶ June 2008: Functional Exercise simulating credentialing, transportation and security for the (SNS) Strategic National Stockpile regional staging site and (MERC) Medical Emergency Response Cache
- ▶ April 2013: Full scale United State Postal Service exercise simulating a biological attack on a US Postal Sorting Facility
- ▶ February 2017: “Outbreak Unchecked” Response Exercise
- ▶ May 2018: POD Full Scale Response Exercise
- ▶ April 2019: SNS Drill – vaccine transportation and distribution

# Timeline of Response – Suffolk County

- ▶ Frequent conference calls and webinars with NYS Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began January 2020
  - ▶ Federal and State agencies responsible for policy development regarding screening, monitoring and testing for COVID-2019
- ▶ Regular Interagency meetings began first week of February 2019
  - ▶ Monitoring protocols compliant with NYSDOH and CDC developed, including procedures for sheltering, food, and medical services
  - ▶ Informational and legal documents developed and translated
  - ▶ FAQs and informational webpage developed
  - ▶ Public Health Nurses responsible for daily interaction with local hospitals, school districts, and the general public responding to questions and concerns, investigation when needed

# Responsibilities of SCDHS

- ▶ SCDHS receives daily list of travelers from China whose destination is Suffolk County. The list is generated by the CDC and distributed by NYSDOH
  - ▶ Public Health Nurses make contact with traveler. Assess each contact to ensure no symptoms and that their home is appropriate for voluntary isolation.
    - ▶ Kits are dropped off that include masks and thermometer
    - ▶ Arrangements for food, shelter or medical are made if needed
    - ▶ Home visits are completed if needed
- ▶ Daily contact is made for the length of the isolation period (14 days since leaving China)
- ▶ Schools will be informed by SCDHS if a student is being monitored



# Responsibilities of SCDHS

- ▶ If a patient is exhibiting symptoms, SCDHS will do the following:
  - ▶ Collect clinical information on patients from hospitals, clinics, and providers
  - ▶ Relay information to NYSDOH
  - ▶ NYSDOH and/or CDC will determine if patient requires testing. If so, patient is designated a Person Under Investigation (PUI)
    - ▶ Specimens tested at NYS Wadsworth Lab
    - ▶ Results available within 24 hours currently
- ▶ PUI may be admitted to hospital, if clinically indicated, or may be on home isolation pending results

# COVID-2019 Statistics

▶ As of 03/03/2020

▶ Suffolk County

- ▶ Number of confirmed cases: 0
- ▶ Number of persons being monitored (voluntary self isolation): 24
- ▶ Number of suspected cases (persons under investigation): 1

▶ New York State Confirmed Cases: 2

- ▶ “General risk remains low in New York State at this time” – NYSDOH, 3/2/2020

▶ United States Confirmed Cases: 43

# What can we do to protect ourselves?



- ▶ Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- ▶ Stay home when you are sick
- ▶ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- ▶ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe
- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- ▶ If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty

# Environmental Cleaning

- ▶ Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, tables, desks) with detergent based cleaners or EPA-registered disinfectants. Use all cleaning products according to the direction on the label.
- ▶ Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down by students and staff before each use.



# Recommendations and Resources for School Districts in Suffolk County

- ▶ Recommend schools review emergency operational plans to ensure such plans are current
- ▶ Recommend following NYSDOH guidance related to school sponsored travel programs
- ▶ Questions regarding COVID-2019 should be directed to SCDHS at 631-854-0333
- ▶ SCPD offers a Biological Awareness Training Program in its Academy, may be able to expand offering to school systems if interested

# CDC Resources for US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools

▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>

The screenshot shows the CDC website page for "Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities". The page has a teal header with the title "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)". Below the header, there is a navigation menu on the left with options like "At Home", "At School", "At Work", etc. The main content area features a section titled "Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities" with a sub-section "How to prepare and take action for COVID-19:". This section includes three columns: "At Home" with an image of a woman washing her hands and the text "Get my household ready"; "At Childcare and K-12 Schools" with an image of a child pointing at a chalkboard; and "At Colleges or Universities" with an image of a professor in a lecture hall.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

CDC > Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

COVID-19 Situation Summary +

What You Should Know +

Travel Information +

**Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities** -

At Home

At School

At Work

First Responders

Public Health Communicators

Community Events

Universities and Colleges

## Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities

**Protect yourself and your community from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses like coronavirus disease 2019.**

Americans should be prepared for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in their community. The community can take measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy.

Currently a vaccine is not available for COVID-19. Community-based interventions such as school dismissals, event cancellations, social distancing, and creating employee plans to work remotely can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes. Click below to learn about steps to take before, during, and after any community spread of COVID-19.

### How to prepare and take action for COVID-19:

**At Home**



Get my household ready

**At Childcare and K-12 Schools**



**At Colleges or Universities**



# Additional Resources

- ▶ New York State Hot Line: 888-364-3065
- ▶ SCDHS Webpage:  
<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Health-Services/Health-Bulletins/Novel-Coronavirus>
- ▶ CDC Webpage:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- ▶ World Health Organization:  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>