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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*COVID-19*

Basic Facts

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Coronavirus Disease 2019
CDC is responding to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Learn More

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

5

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
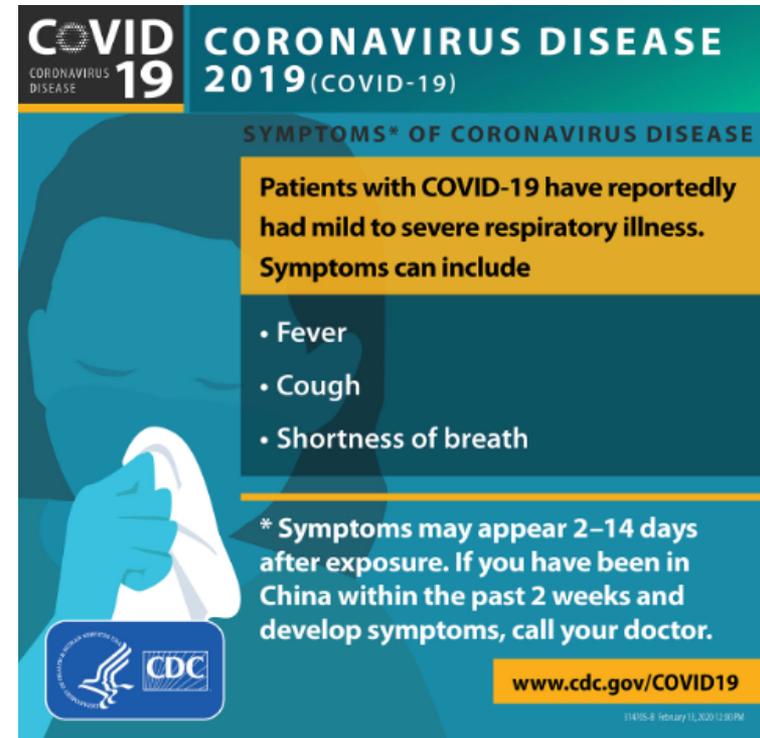
Reported Cases in US as of 3/17/2020
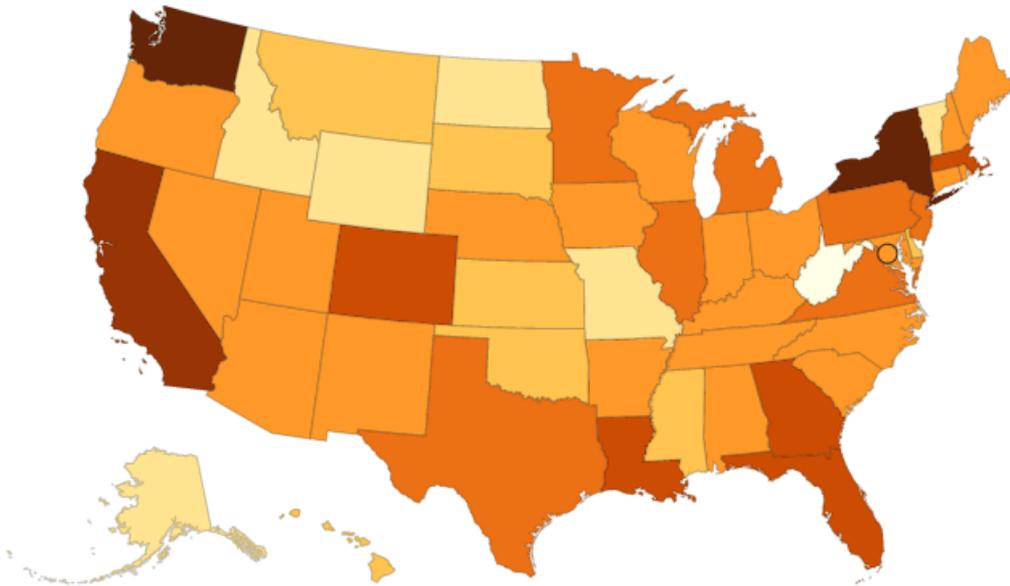
Territories | AS | GU | MH | FM | MP | PW | PR | VI

❖ 4,226 cases reported to CDC

❖ Underestimate of actual cases due to testing challenges

❖ Number of actual cases significant higher

Reported Cases

○ None ○ 1 to 5 ○ 6 to 10 ○ 11 to 20 ● 21 to 50 ● 101 to 200 ● 201 to 500

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Reported Cases in MD as of 3/17/2020
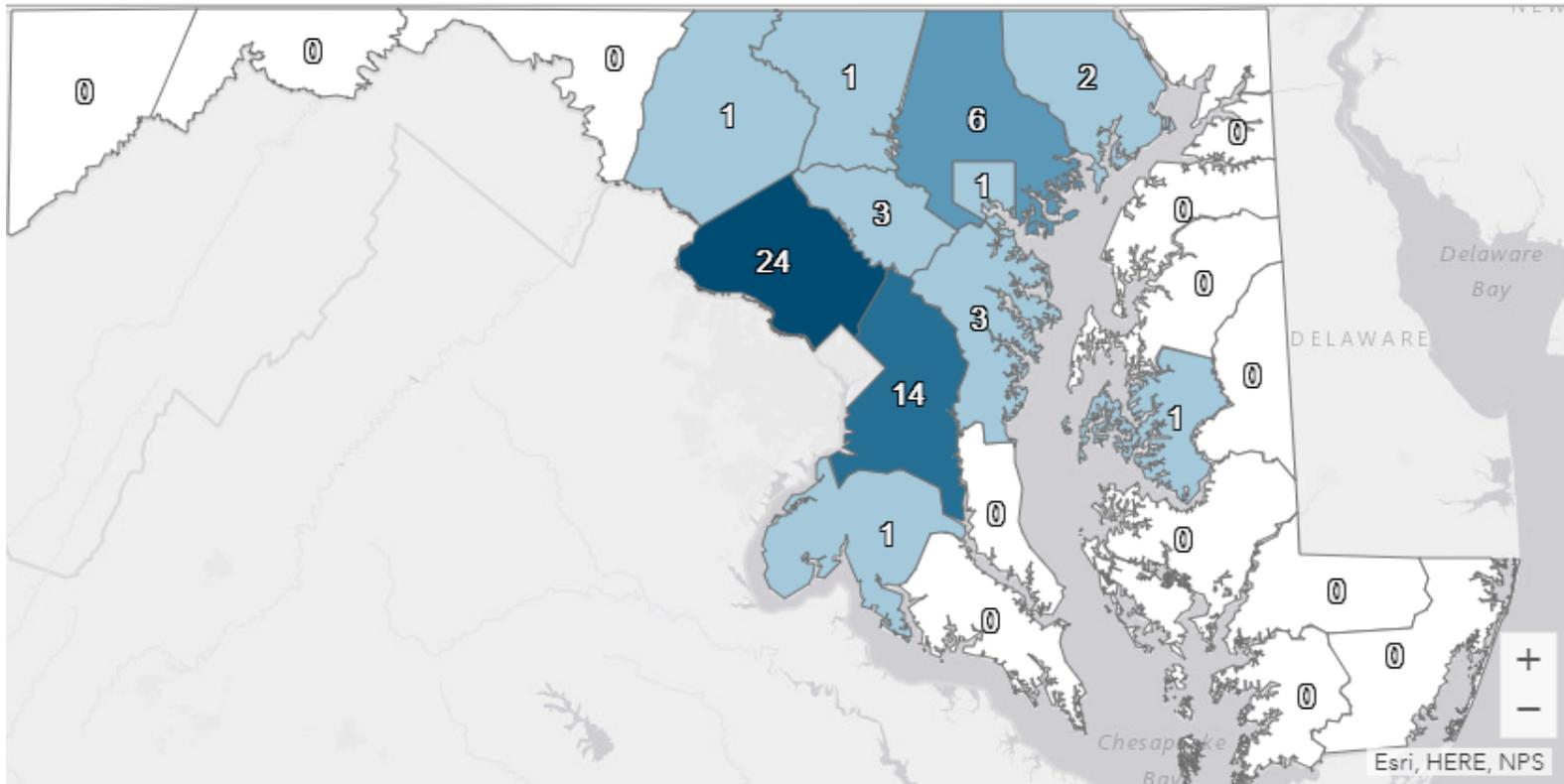
❖ 57 confirmed cases in Maryland

https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Treatment and Prevention

❖ No specific medical treatment

❖ No vaccine at present

❖ Encourage influenza vaccination to prevent flu

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Goals

❖ SLOW THE SPREAD

❖ PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

❖ MAINTAIN VITAL SERVICES

❖ ADJUST TO LOCAL CONDITIONS

❖ BE FLEXIBLE

❖ MAINTAIN NORMALCY IN ABNORMAL TIMES

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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)

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Guidance for Non-Health Care Businesses

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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](#) 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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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 100.4º F [38º 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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

❖ CDC interim guidance for cleaning in homes with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary of Commerce

Business Operations

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Tiffany P. Robinson, Secretary of Labor

Labor and Employment

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Maryland Department of Labor
labor.maryland.gov

<u>Division of Unemployment Insurance</u>
- 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.

<u>Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing</u>
- If you have a licensing question, please e-mail dlopl-labor@maryland.gov.

<u>Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning</u>
- If you have a general workforce inquiry, please e-mail dldwdworkforcedevelopment-labor@maryland.gov.

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Allegra Tartaglia

Concluding Remarks

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Resources and References

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

❖ CDC Coronavirus Website (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)

❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Homes and Communities (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html)

❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html)

❖ CDC Interim Guidance for Childcare and Schools (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html)

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Resources for Specific Groups

❖ Infection Prevention in the Home Setting (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html#precautions)

❖ Community- and Faith-Based Organizations (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html)

❖ Mass Gatherings and Large Community Events (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html)

❖ Non-Pharmacueutical Interventions for Specific Groups (https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/index.html)

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH