

Hello,

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is continuing to work with local, state, and national partners on public health preparedness and emergency response activities to prepare for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The MHD maintains daily internal and external communication about the rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19 to provide situational awareness and ensure a coordinated response to this emerging public health threat. Our goal at this time is to make sure that individuals at risk (i.e. returning travelers) are identified through our surveillance systems and receive rapid recommended follow-up and testing. The City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory and Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene are preparing for the eventuality of being able to provide testing locally. We must focus on containment while doing everything we can to prepare for a potential pandemic.

Below is a summary of activities performed by the MHD the past several weeks to prepare for COVID-19:

#### Outreach/Messaging/Partnerships

MHD hosts weekly meetings with colleges, universities, and schools in Milwaukee to discuss questions, concerns, and preparedness activities around COVID-19

Clinician outreach through "Dear Milwaukee Clinicians" listserv

SurvNet (listserv) messaging to healthcare facilities, EMS, and colleges/schools/universities

Responding to public questions and providing guidance on preventative measures

Responding to media inquiries (have been deferring to the State Dept. of Health Services per their request)

Disseminated information to the Southeastern Wisconsin Homeland Security Partnership to help ensure businesses are prepared

Engaged in Public health and Hospital Caucuses of the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition in discussions around COVID-19 preparedness

Regular contact with the County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to discuss COVID-19 preparedness

Reoccurring and upcoming meetings are scheduled with the County Executive Office, County Office of Emergency Management, and the County Courthouse Safety and Security Committee (which includes representatives from Office of Emergency Management, Milwaukee Police Dept, Deputy Clerk of Circuit Courts, Public Defenders Office and Facilities Director), Port of Milwaukee, and Dr. Jim Ninomiya with the National Guard to discuss COVID-19

Daily contact with City of Milwaukee Emergency Manager regarding COVID-1

Participation on expert panel discussion with other partners at the UWM Zilber School of Public Health on Wednesday, 2/26/2020.

#### Internal Activities and Preparedness

Monitoring and quarantining travelers/at-risk individuals

Daily internal situational reports (sent to leadership. Board of Health and other key staff)

Staying up to date on the rapidly changing guidance and information from WHO, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WI DPH and others.

Reviewing pandemic flu plans

Preparing to issue isolation/quarantine orders, if necessary

Ramping up social media, website updates, and public messages (note MHD has not had a Communications Officer since December & will not have one until mid-April)

Clinic preparedness and internal staff presentation

Preparing hotline to implement if necessary

New MHD Medical Director will not begin until 4/1/2020, Dr. Heather Paradis. She will be a huge asset for our clinical & emergency preparedness operations.

Flu Situational Awareness week of 2/24/2020

525 hospitalizations this week

Near or at peak

Influenza illness highest since 2017-2018 season

Percentage of lab positives increasing (47%)

Hospitalizations of persons ages 18-49 higher percentage

58 pregnant women hospitalized this year – a record number

Collaboration with UWM—gave 140 doses of flu vaccine 2/25

Jeanette Kowalik, PhD, MPH, MCHES

Commissioner of Health

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building

841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor

Milwaukee, WI 53202

E-mail: [jkowal@milwaukee.gov](mailto:jkowal@milwaukee.gov)

414.286.3521 Ph | 414.286.5990 Fx

[www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health) | Facebook | Twitter @jlkowalik

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