

# COVID-19 UPDATE



**Public Health**  
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Champaign-Urbana Public Health District  
[www.c-uphd.org](http://www.c-uphd.org)

Updated 3/5/2020

There are so many things happening related to COVID-19 that it is difficult to know where to start. I will start with what is CURRENTLY known about the virus as provided by IL Department of Public Health's Situation Update:

- In 81% of patients, illness was mild
- Low case fatality rate (2.3%) with the majority of deaths in persons >60 years old and/or had pre-existing, comorbid conditions
- Those >80 had a 14.8% case fatality rate
- Case fatality rate was very high for cases categorized as critical at 49%
- 17.7% of COVID-19 is severe
- Respiratory Droplet Transmission among close contacts (within about 6 feet)
  - Doesn't remain viable for long periods of time on surfaces
  - Unlikely transmitted via airborne
- 14-day incubation period with a *NEJM* article on "Early Transmission Dynamics in Wuhan, China" (January 29, 2020) suggesting mean incubation period of 5.2 days (95% CI of 4.1 to 7.0)
- Most contagious when symptomatic, less likely to be contagious before symptomatic
- Transmission in youth and infants appears to be low at this time
- *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* Feb. 22 article "Estimation of the reproductive number of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is around 2.28. That means that every infected person, on average, infects 2.28 additional people.

Champaign County is approaching this situation like we have done in the past by working together, innovating, and communicating. Please know that health care providers, the hospitals, and all units of government are taking this threat seriously, and they are doing what they can to prepare their employees, clients, and those they influence. There have been and will continue to be more meetings than we can count.

CUPHD has distributed pandemic planning materials to schools, faith-based communities, the businesses community, child care facilities, Parkland and U of IL, law enforcement, and the jail throughout our entire county. We have guidance for the above-mentioned, and guide for individuals and families on our website. We continue to meet with Long Term Care facilities, the courts, and local and county governments to help them prepare.

I will be taping a weekly show, with Elizabeth Hess, formerly of WDWS radio, for Urbana Public TV that we will continue through the situation. This will help us reach out to seniors and other who do not or cannot use the internet. This show will also be available on YouTube and will be available on our website and sharable through CUPHD's Facebook page. We will update the community on what is happening, put out important information on keeping our community safe, answer frequently asked questions, and possibly ask the community for help.

CUPHD and our community partners are committed to getting the information out to our community as fast as we can. We are translating our written materials into Spanish and French promptly so we can make sure we reach everyone in our county. Know that with the level of speed and transparency that we are attempting, errors may be made. We will correct them as soon as possible. What we need our community to do is ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT. In other words, know that everyone involved in this response is trying their hardest. We are trying to reach everyone in our community with this information. We could use everyone's help. Please share our information and materials with your friends, family, employees, clients, etc.

As the United States starts testing more people cases of COVID-19 will be discovered. Champaign County is receiving authority to start testing additional people. We, too, will likely see cases. We expect this. We are prepared for this. If we have cases that are not travel-linked and evidence of community transmission, CUPHD will start issuing additional guidance. This could include things such as recommending cancelling mass gatherings, hosting meetings via webinar or conference calls instead of in person.

CUPHD staff is available for questions and ideas through our Facebook page, our COVID-19 hotline 217-239-7877, and through e-mail at [coronavirus@c-uphd.org](mailto:coronavirus@c-uphd.org). Also, please keep up with our website at [www.c-uphd.org](http://www.c-uphd.org)

Thank you,

Julie A. Pryde, MSW, MPH  
Public Health Administrator

**Our website has guidance, news, updates, printed materials, and audio/visual resources related to COVID-19.**

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