

**City of Huntington Beach**  
**COVID-19 Response Plan**

*HB Ready*  
March 16, 2020



**Background – COVID-19 History**

- **December 2019** – COVID-19 outbreak begins in Wuhan City, China
- **March 2, 2020** – County of Orange declared a countywide-emergency
- **March 4, 2020** – State declares a State of Emergency
- **March 11, 2020** – World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a global pandemic
- **March 13, 2020** – Federal Government declares a National Emergency

**SUPPLEMENTAL  
COMMUNICATION**

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Meeting Date: 3/16/20

Agenda Item No.: 20 (20-1526)

## Our Strategy – Don't Panic, But Be HB Ready

- Given all of the misinformation that's out there in the public, the unknowns are creating a strong sense of fear within our communities
- In response to the overall situation, we've worked to develop a logical COVID-19 response framework that prioritizes public safety and maintenance of essential service operations
  - HB Ready COVID-19 Response Plan
  - Encourage aggressive social distancing practices
  - Engage in consistent and timely public outreach
- Our efforts have been designed to institute appropriate response strategies that prioritizes mitigation of COVID-19 spread locally, while instituting appropriate societal disruptions given the overall situation

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## The Facts

***Until Yesterday Evening, Orange County Officials Identified as Low-Risk for Transmission***

There is now laboratory evidence of community transmission in Orange County, indicating that COVID-19 is likely spreading in the community.

2020 Orange County Coronavirus Case Counts							
(as of 03/15/2020)							
		Gender		Age Group (years)			
		Male	Female	<18	18 - 49	50 - 64	≥ 65
Cases	17	12	5	0	7	6	4
Travel Related	11	7	4	0	4	4	3
Person to Person Spread*	3	3	0	0	3	0	0
Community Acquired**	3	2	1	0	0	2	1
Total Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

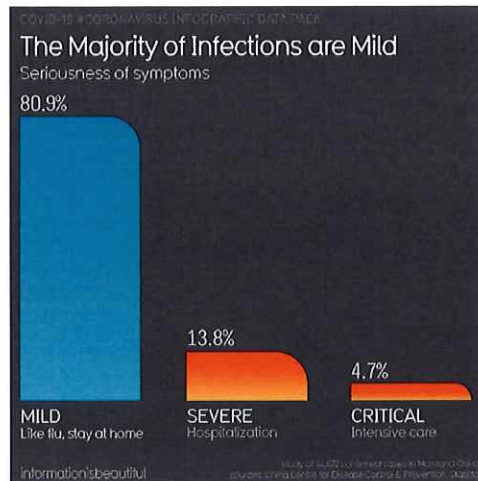
\*Contact to a known case. | \*\*Not travel related or contact to known case.

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## The Facts

### ***81% of Those Infected with COVID-19 Only Experience Mild Symptoms***

- All of the research and data regarding COVID-19 shows that ~81% of those infected only have mild symptoms



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## The Problem

### ***Inability of Medical Care System to Treat all At-Risk Patients if Transmissions Spike***

- The problem we're dealing with – the reason that society has been upended – is...
  - Our medical system does not have the capacity to deal with all of patients who will need critical care services if COVID-19 transmission rates stay constant
- Social disruptions we're all seeing now have been instituted to slow the spread of COVID-19 among the most at-risk population
- This is needed, because here's the demographic and medical reality we're dealing with in the United States and Orange County...

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## The Problem

### Inability of Medical Care System to Treat all At-Risk Patients if Transmissions Spike

At-Risk Population vs. Available Hospital Resources			
	United States	Orange County	Huntington Beach Population Aged 65+
Population Aged 65+	52,500,000	420,000	~35,000
Number of Staffed Hospital Beds	925,000	4,986	
Number of ICU Beds	46,500	436	

- According to the Department of Health & Human Services, if COVID-19 transmission rates are not slowed, we will have...
  - Hospitalizations: 1 million to 9.6 million
  - ICU Care Needed: 200,000 to 2.9 million
- The inability of our medical care system to deal with the potential flow of patients in critical condition is not one of the problems associated with the COVID-19 virus...
  - **IT IS THE PROBLEM.**

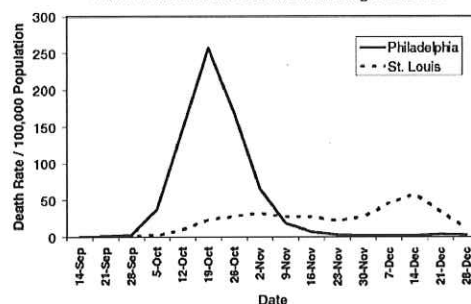
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## The Problem

### History and Data Show That Social Distancing Works

- The situation in Italy is what we're trying to avoid
  - The Italian public health care system has been overrun due to the number of patients needing critical care
  - Many in Italy are dying in their homes and in the streets because there just aren't enough hospital beds
  - This has put health care professionals in the position where they have to decide who receives care, and who doesn't
- Study of the 1918 Spanish Flu indicates that mitigating transmission is effective
  - US Surgeon General issued guidance that local authorities close public gathering places
  - St. Louis complied, Philadelphia did not
- We can't build more hospitals overnight, but we can work to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus to "flatten the curve" for new transmissions

Chart 19: Death Rate of 1918 Flu Pandemic in Cities with Different Social Distancing Measures



The first cases of disease among civilians in Philadelphia were reported on September 17, 1918, but authorities downplayed their significance and allowed large public gatherings, notably a city-wide parade on September 28, 1918, to continue. School closures, bans on public gatherings, and other social distancing measures were not implemented until October 3, when disease spread had already begun to overwhelm local medical and public health resources.

In contrast, the first cases of disease among civilians in St. Louis were reported on October 6, and authorities moved rapidly to introduce a broad series of measures designed to promote social distancing, implementing these on October 7.

The difference in response times between the two cities (~14 days, when measured from the first reported cases) represents approximately three to five doubling times for an influenza epidemic.

Source: Public health interventions and epidemic intensity during the 1918 influenza pandemic, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*, 105(18):6113-6118, 2008.

## HB Ready – Surf City’s COVID-19 Response Plan

- Given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no prescribed best practices or plans for how to guide our response
- To provide a framework within which we could operate logically, City staff developed our HB Ready COVID-19 Response Plan
  - Phase 1 Response: Preparedness, public education, & outreach
  - Phase 2 Response: Minimal to moderate community transmission rates
  - Phase 3 Response: Substantial transmission rates
- We are blessed in Orange County to have had fewer COVID-19 transmission cases than other parts of California
  - This gives us the luxury of extra time to institute thoughtful plans that prioritize mitigation efforts while minimizing unnecessary societal disruptions
  - Our response plan includes identifiable triggers that escalate based on the evolving situation

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## COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN (March 2020)

### PHASE I RESPONSE

THRESHOLD GUIDELINES	Phase I - Preparedness Phase		
	Community Mitigation	Emergency Response	City Services
<b>Orange County Health Care Agency Declaration of Local State Emergency</b>	Increase awareness and public education Provide outreach and public education to high risk population Establish PIO messaging strategy Update Alert-OC with a call-in message Cancel large gatherings greater than 250 people. Move to smaller groupings Cancel gatherings of more than 10 people for organizations that serve high risk populations Close high risk classes on a case by case basis Practice social distancing (physical space of at least 6' between individuals)	Increase response and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocol for responders Develop tracking program to follow high risk patients through the medical system Update medical response algorithms to include new CDC protocols Train first responders on modified protocols Maintain necessary PPE inventory	Activate EOC to Level III Encourage employees to stay home when sick Implement cleaning and sanitation policies for the workplace Order COVID approved cleaning supplies and develop guidance document Review, develop and update work plans to account for reduction in staff Provide cleaning supplies for city conference rooms No work related out of County travel/conferences

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## Phase I Response

### *Outreach and Education Efforts Have Been Instituted*

- New website & social media marketing efforts developed to provide community with up-to-date information
- COVID-19 Telephone Hotline created – (714) 536-5978
- Public education efforts engaged
  - Fire / Paramedic staff have visited all high-risk facilities in HB (i.e., skilled nursing / assisted living facilities)
  - CERT members visited over 150 different senior and board / care facilities to provide public information
- Initial social distancing efforts engaged, with postponement of events with more than 250 people, plus elimination of City-sponsored group meetings of at-risk population



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## COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN (March 2020)

### PHASE II RESPONSE

THRESHOLD GUIDELINES	Phase II - Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission		
	Community Mitigation	Emergency Response	City Services
<b>Federal, State or County Change in Declaration</b>	Continue awareness and public education Continue to provide outreach and public education to high risk population	Institute employee monitoring and health tracking (temperature and symptoms) Reduce non-essential staff assignments	City Council Declaration of Local Emergency Activate EOC to Level II, establish unified command Require employees to stay home when sick
<b>Community transmission in Orange County</b>	Continue social distancing measures Cancel large gatherings greater than 250 people. Move to smaller groupings Cancel gathering of more than 10 people for organizations that serve high risk populations	Reduce activities to focus on operations	Close non-essential recreational city services Do not schedule city special events over 50 people Limit work travel and conferences Develop staff reduction plan Establish at least one department illness representative for each department

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## COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN (March 2020)

### PHASE III RESPONSE

THRESHOLD GUIDELINES	Phase III - Substantial Community Transmission			
	Community Mitigation	Emergency Response	City Services	
<b>Federal, State or County Change in Declaration</b>	Continue awareness and public education  Continue to provide outreach and public education to high risk population	Institute employee monitoring and health tracking (temperature and symptoms)  Evaluate service delivery model based on workforce health	Activate EOC to Level I  Arrange telecommute arrangements  Cancel all work travel	
<b>Increased Community transmission in Orange County</b>	Continue social distancing measures  Cancel large gatherings greater than 250 people- Move to smaller groupings	Consider/cancel mutual aid	Cancel all contract classes  Close recreational services  Close City Hall to all non- essential services	
<b>Community Transmission in Huntington Beach</b>	Organizations that serve high risk populations, cancel gathering of more than 10 people		Cancel commission and community support meetings  Cancel Council Meetings  Implement staff reduction plan	

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### HB Response Status – Moving to Phase II Response

- City staff has instituted Phase I protocols currently, and based on recent situational changes this past weekend, we are recommending moving to a Phase II response
  - New Federal, State, and County guidance
  - School closures
  - Increased COVID-19 transmission in Orange County
- Moving to a Phase II response involves declaring a local emergency in Huntington Beach
  - Such an action authorizes expedited administrative ability to respond to the situation
  - Special purchasing, emergency contracting, relaxed personnel rules
  - Puts the City in position to receive Federal / State reimbursement for eligible costs / damages incurred

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## Preliminary Fiscal Impacts

- Staff is closely monitoring the fiscal impacts associated with the COVID-19 situation
  - Previously a \$4.7 million year-end surplus was projected
  - Given economic impacts, staff has been working to update projections
- Based on our current estimates, the following revenue decreases are projected:
  - Transient Occupancy Tax Decrease - \$2.5 - \$3.0 Million
  - Sales Tax / Charges for Service Decrease - \$1.0 - \$1.5 Million
  - TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE DECREASE: \$3.5 - \$4.5 Million
- Currently, we do anticipate ending FY 2019/20 with a balanced budget
  - Additional fiscal response measures being developed, including holding all non-essential vacant positions open
  - We currently have 65.5 vacant FTEs in the City

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## Questions?