JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COVID-19

Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D.
Department of Health and Human Services
March 10, 2020
## Current Situation – as of 3/8/2020 according to World Health Organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Confirmed Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globally</td>
<td>101,927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>80,813</td>
<td>3,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside of China (93 counties)</td>
<td>21,110</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>2*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Presumptively positive as reported by NC Department of Health and Human Services
NC Preparation and Response

• Coordinating state efforts through Governor’s Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Task Force
• Developing response plans and decision triggers that address a range of scenarios and actions
• Identifying and testing people under investigation
• Implementing control measures, including self-monitoring with local public health supervision, isolation and quarantine
• Activated a Joint Information Center and COVID-19 hotline
• Updating COVID-19 website: ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus
Testing

• State lab able to run tests as of March 3

• CDC expanded testing guidelines last week
  – States, including NC have had inadequate testing supplies
  – As March 7, NC had supplies from CDC to test 190 people

• Testing supply needs are being addressed
  – NC DHHS worked directly with supply manufacturer
  – Agreements signed with UNC and Duke
  – LabCorp began testing March
  – CDC increased the cap for supply orders states could place
Immediate Next Steps

• Transitioning response operations to the State Emergency Operations Center to expand coordination across the whole of state government
  – Similar to other states, we are evaluating declaration of emergency to allow for flexibility in resource allocation and additional authorities to aid in response preparation and execution

• Ordering additional equipment for state lab to increase number of tests that can be run at same time
  – State lab is first responder in identifying new outbreaks, initiating containment strategies, and supporting underserved populations

• Evaluating overall budget needs to adequately respond
  – Federal supplement approved last week
Immediate Next Steps – Medicaid Policy

• Allow Medicaid providers to bill for defined telephonic services
• Update pharmacy policies to allow orders for 90-day generic and brand; remove refill limits; eliminate 30-day requirement to qualify for 90-day supply
• Allow reimbursement for masks for ill patients requiring frequent transportation/public presence (i.e. dialysis)
• Eliminate Prior Authorizations for oxygen equipment and related supplies (including CPAP, respiratory assist devices, ventilator)
• Reinforce copay not required at time of office visit
• Encourage providers to use home visits for vulnerable populations and group living
• Finalize first responders ability to treat with no transport 911 calls; study impact of developing reimbursement for paramedics/caramedics to evaluate and treat in the home
Strategies Will Evolve

While we continue to practice containment, mitigation preparation is underway. Strategies do not occur in isolation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Containment</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Individual level</td>
<td>• Community level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provider guidance on risk assessment</td>
<td>• Provide guidance on personal, environmental, and community measures to limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Monitor specific individuals for symptoms</td>
<td>spread of illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Isolation, quarantine, contact tracing procedures</td>
<td>• Actions to increase social distancing, protect high risk people,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Might not prevent spread of disease, but delays spread providing valuable time to prepare</td>
<td>• Can blunt the intensity of epidemic so resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Leading with Compassion and Reason

• North Carolina has been preparing diligently well before we had our first case

• As testing is expanded, the number of confirmed positives will increase

• Rely on facts and not fear. Get accurate information
  – www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus

• Blame, stigma, and harassment should not be tolerated