



COVID-19 UPDATE

3.31.2020

TESTING

- Testing kits remain in short supply
 - Current results significantly under represent virus prevalence
- Labs have serious backlog of processing
 - Prioritization of cases was implemented on Friday
- 23 Kent residents screened at Chesapeake College
 - KCHD could only have done 11 tests without regional testing
- New labs and alternate testing technology are coming online every day
- Health Dept does not track pending tests, only test results as posted to the Statewide system

POSITIVE CASE UPDATES

- All positive test results are investigated and the individual / household is issued a voluntary isolation order by KCHD
- Current Cases (3):
 - All close contacts since onset have been contacted by the HD
 - Case 1: Symptoms resolved; currently inactive
 - WC Off Campus Party Case:
 - 48 persons contacted and advised to quarantine.
 - No additional symptomatic persons found
 - Case 2: Active; still monitoring
 - Case 3: Active; still monitoring

POSITIVE CASE UPDATES_(CONT'D)

- Contact tracings:
 - focus on any close personal contact since onset of symptoms (<6 ft for > 3 min)
 - Any exposure to high risk populations or potential for clusters
- KCHD is only publishing details about positives if the tracing reveals large-scale exposure to high-risk populations
- General announcements regarding community exposures have been discontinued now that the disease is considered widespread
 - Containment period has ended; mitigation has begun

HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOTLINE

- Started March 24, 2020
- Open Daily 8:30 am – 6:00 pm
- Fielded **93** Calls as of 3/29/20
- 410-778-1350

STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE DELIVERIES

- 2 Shipments of PPE delivered to KCHD (3/20 & 3/27)
- 17 cases distributed on 3/23 and 16 cases will start going out today.
- Prioritization those receiving PPE determined by MEMA algorithm.
- EMS and First Responders received a separate allocation
- Deliveries are only a fraction of the need

HOSPITAL STATUS

- Last 10 days has been mostly operating within its licensed capacity.
- Postponing all elective procedures has helped.
- Monday March 30th, Chester River had 16 admitted patients with 2 in ICU.
- EMS calls also down Statewide, but Influenza Like Illnesses transports are up.

SURGE PLANNING

- Met on Monday with Regional Health Officers and Ken Kozel CEO of UM SHORE REGIONAL HEALTH
 - UM SRH plans to double the number of acute care beds and quadruple the number of ICU beds
 - Triage tents in place for initial screening & evaluations
 - They have requested the County to establish potential locations for convalescent care for those who cannot return home, but do not need to be in the hospital.
 - **Staffing, equipment, supplies are biggest challenges.**
- Maryland Responds Volunteers: KCHD has processed the applications of local residents.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF REPORTED POSITIVE CASES

- 78 % Age 18 – 64
- 21% Older than 64
- 1% below 18 Years of age
- GENDER DISTRIBUTION (49% Females, 51% Males)

As of 3/30/20

FAQ'S

- **When do you anticipate this being over?**
 - *No one knows with any certainty. Reports vary widely. Anticipate it to go on longer than expected*
- **What should I do if I have been exposed?**
 - *If you have been in close contact with someone who is symptomatic, quarantine at home for 14 days, monitor your temperature and other symptoms. If you are at high risk contact your healthcare provider as soon as you detect symptoms.*

FAQ'S (CONT'D)

- **What should I do if I am feeling sick?**
 - *If you are symptomatic, contact your health care provider, quarantine at home for at least 7 days or until you are 72 hours symptom free without medication*
- **If I have been sick when can I safely leave quarantine / isolation?**
 - At least 7 days after first symptoms and you have been 72 hours symptom free without medication

FAQ'S (CONT'D)

- **Why is the Health Dept. not disclosing more information about positive cases?**

- *Kent County Health dept. follows guideline from MDH on what information to release. Privacy of the patient must be balanced with the benefit to the community. Disease containment phase is over. Specific geographic detail is not pertinent once the virus has reached the stage of Community Spread*

- **I am running low on food, where can I get a meal?**

- *Call 211, Visit MSDE webpage, call KCHD Hotline*

FAQ'S (CONT'D)

- **People are coming to Kent County from other states. What can we do about this? ?**
 - Encourage them to self-quarantine for 14 days after they arrive
 - Encourage them to bring as many of their personal and food supplies with them as possible, thus keeping them out of our local stores during their 14 day self-quarantine as much as possible.
- Will we be sending out press releases for each positive test case in Kent County?
 - Moving forward the Health Dept will be focused on Surge planning and disease surveillance

FAQ'S (COND)

- **Should I wear a face mask when I go out in public?**
 - No. Face masks are not recommended for the general public, though masks can be useful in some settings — such as in a hospital or clinic waiting room — to prevent someone who has a respiratory illness from spreading it to others.
- **What is being done to monitor / assist Kent's homeless population**
 - LHD, DSS, Mid Shore Behavioral Health & OES are working on a plan.

OTHER NOTES...

- Use reliable information sources
 - CDC
 - MD Dept of Health
 - KCHD
 - 211
- KCHD Hotline
 - 410.778.1350
 - 8:30 am – 6:00 pm

OTHER NOTES...

- Virus does not spread itself; people spread the virus
- Do not stigmatize those who get sick
 - Virus does not discriminate
 - It will affect those in every walk of life
- Take a moment to thank those essential workers who are still on the job

QUESTIONS?

- Bill Webb, Health Officer
Kent County Health Department
410.778.1350
william.webb@Maryland.gov

- Wayne Darrell, Director
Kent County Office of Emergency Services
410.778.7458
wdarrell@kentgov.org