CURRENT SITUATION


PADOH continues coordination efforts with FEMA, PEMA, and other state agencies through the Department Operations Center (DOC) to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

Currently, there are 45,763 positive cases and 2,292 deaths in Pennsylvania.

As of 1800 on May 1, 2020, there were 1,098,565 cases in the U.S, and 3,334,416 worldwide. There have been 64,324 deaths in the U.S. and 237,943 throughout the world.

Epidemiological investigations and contact tracing continue throughout the state to determine potential exposure of additional persons. The PA state lab has increased capacity to account for the testing surge. Commercial and medical system labs are on line and testing for COVID-19.


On March 25, 2020, PA Legislature passed $50 million in funding to help aid the health care system in providing more medical equipment and supplies and to meet urgent needs of patients and staff. On March 28, 2020, the Wolf administration received USDA approval for COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution. On March 30, 2020, the White House approved a major disaster declaration for PA.

On April 1, 2020, Governor Wolf expanded the stay-at-home order to include the entire commonwealth, which has been extended to May 8, 2020. On April 3, 2020, Governor Wolf announced that as many people as possible should wear a nonmedical or homemade mask when leaving their homes.

On April 8, 2020, Governor Wolf signed an order to distribute and transfer PPE/medical supplies between medical facilities to provide critical aid to those in need. On April 10, Governor Wolf signed an executive order authorizing the early release of 1,800 inmates from state prisons to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

On April 15, 2020, Secretary Levine signed an order directing protections for critical workers who are employed at businesses that are authorized to maintain in-person operations during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

On April 22, 2020, Governor Wolf unveiled his detailed plan for opening the commonwealth with a target May 8, 2020 start. This reopening will happen in three phases: red, yellow, and green. Phases will be assigned based on conditions in a county, counties, or region. On May 1, 2020, Governor Wolf announced that the following 24 counties would ease restrictions and move from the red phase to the yellow phase beginning May 8, 2020: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union, Venango, and Warren. In addition, Secretary Levine outlined DOH’s plans for contact tracing, case investigation, and increased testing capacities as these counties move to ease restrictions.

* Data sources: WHO, CDC, ECDC, NHC and DXY and local media reports
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• DOH State Lab is currently testing specimens for SARS-CoV-2
• Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks, Philadelphia, Erie, Allegheny, South Central, Chester, and Allentown Medical Reserve Corps activated
• Participated in joint planning meetings with PEMA on public health missions
• Delivery of resources ongoing
• DOH and PEMA established Operational Synch Matrix process
• BOL testing – no backlog
• Medical surge planning conducted, and CSC guidance released
• Planning for Alternate Care Sites ongoing
• MRC recruitment and vetting of MRC volunteers
• Spanish menu launched for PAHEALTH line
• Version 2 of the Interim Crisis Standards of Care Plan published on April 11, 2020
• PPE distribution information disseminated
• Pre-registration instructions for NE CBTS included on DOH website
• Temple University ACS has begun accepting patients
• NE CBTS open to all pre-registered symptomatic adults
• Phone registration option implemented at NE CBTS for those that do not have internet access

CHALLENGES

• National guidance is evolving. Keep partners informed as it changes
• Assessing supply chain issues
• Addressing PPE issues
• Addressing needs of LTC facilities and other congregate settings

PLANNED ACTIVITIES (NEXT 24 – 72 HOURS)

• Continue development of COVID-19 Response & Mitigation Plan
• Conduct daily executive briefings
• Continue/Enhance Joint Information Center in coordination with agency partners
• Coordinate GIS Data and layers of information for dashboard, in conjunction with PEMA
• Healthcare Coordination calls held weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
• County and Municipal Health Department calls held weekly, as needed
• Coordinate messaging and information requests from state agencies
• Disseminate a health alert (HAN) on updated CDC guidance as necessary
• Continue local and regional planning support efforts with partner state agencies
• Continue development of media campaign to improve general public awareness
• Developing KC Just-In-Time Training Plan
• Keep KC Incident updated

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
• Coronavirus informational webpage on PA DOH website live here
• Public inquiry resource account: RA-DHCOVIDQUESTIONS@pa.gov