



MEMORANDUM

To: Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Zuzzette Bricker, Office of Emergency Management Program Manager

Date: March 5, 2020

Subject: February 2020 Office of Emergency Management Report

Mission: The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for minimizing the impact of natural and man-made disasters by establishing readiness through city-wide prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

Current Preparedness Level: SEMS is the system required by Government Code §8607 (a) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies in California. SEMS provides for a multiple level emergency response organization and is intended to structure and facilitate the flow of emergency information and resources within and between the organizational levels.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ***Update***

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in China. Currently, COVID-19 has been identified in almost 70 locations worldwide, with 108 [cases in the United States](#) as of March 5, 2020.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in preparation for a potential broader spread of COVID-19. The [emergency proclamation](#) is the state's response to address the coronavirus outbreak, making additional resources available to multiple state agencies and departments. The official announcement comes following the first official COVID-19 death and as the number of positive cases in California rises.

One Riverside County resident who was a passenger aboard a cruise ship near Japan recently tested positive for the illness, but are being housed at a Northern California medical facility and have not been in Riverside County since being diagnosed. Currently, no COVID-19 cases are present in Riverside County.

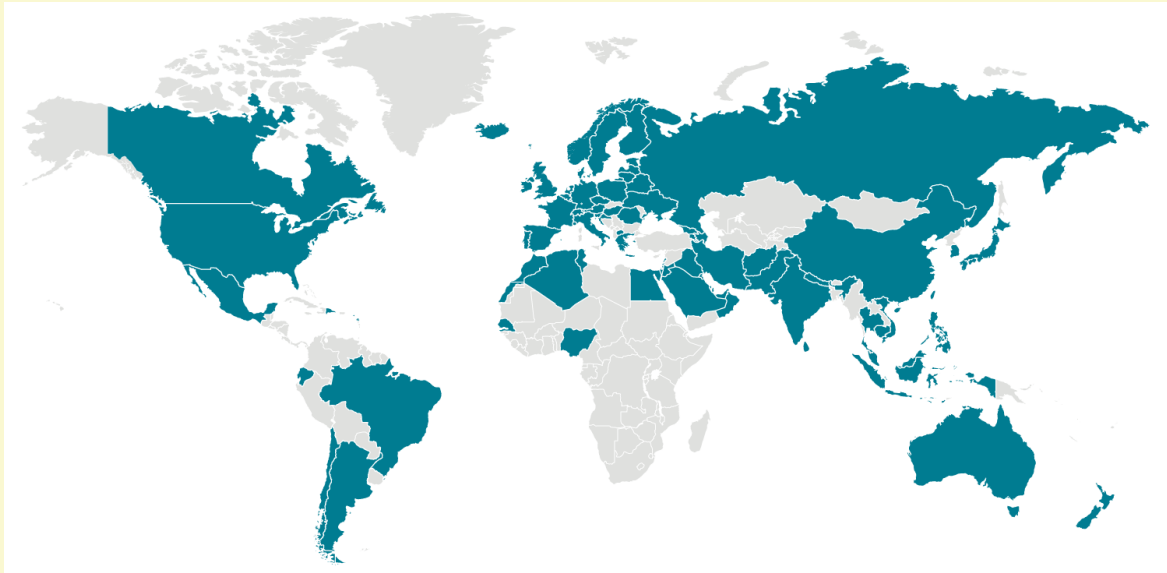
Source and Spread of the Virus

Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19 in Wuhan, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting *animal-to-person spread*. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating *person-to-person spread*. Chinese officials report that sustained person-to-person spread in the community is occurring in China.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person; between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) or through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus that causes COVID-19 appears to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community. "Community spread" refers to people who have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. Reported community spread of COVID-19 in parts of the United States raises the level of concern about the immediate threat among those communities. The potential public health threat posed by the virus is very high, to the U.S. and globally. However, according to the CDC, at this time, most people in the U.S. will have little immediate risk of exposure to this virus. This virus is NOT currently spreading widely in the United States.

Risk Assessment

- For most of the American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.
- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated, though still relatively low risk of exposure.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also at elevated risk of exposure.



Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) in their coronavirus disease 2019 ([COVID-19](#)) situation report.

Situation in U.S.

- Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the U.S.
- Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 was first reported among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan.
- During the week of February 23, CDC reported community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 in California (in two places), Oregon and Washington. Community spread in Washington resulted in the first death in the United States from COVID-19, as well as the first reported case of COVID-19 in a health care worker, and the first potential outbreak in a long-term care facility.

Illness Severity

Both MERS and SARS have been known to cause severe illness in people. The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is still not fully clear. Reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying.

Based on what has been previously seen as the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses, the following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

It is advised to contact your doctor if one develops symptoms, **and** have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently travels from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19.

Travel Advisory

Warning Level 3

Warning Level 3 (Red): Avoid all non-essential travel to this destination. The outbreak is of high risk to travelers and no precautions are available to protect against the identified increased risk.

CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to the following destinations:

- China
- Iran
- South Korea
- Italy

As a precaution, CDC recommends that older adults or those who have chronic medical conditions consider postponing travel to the following destinations:

- Japan

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

Treatment

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection. People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions. People who think they may have been exposed to 2019-nCoV should contact your healthcare provider immediately.

There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available. Office of Emergency Management will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates.

Reference:

CDC and World Health Organization