Coronavirus Patient Safety Update

Donna Prosser, DNP, RN, NE-BC, FACHE, BCPA
Steve Barker, PhD, MD
Robin Betts, MBA, HM, RN, CPHQ
Mike Durkin, OBE, MBBS, FRCA, FRCP, DSC

March 6, 2020
Background

- A new respiratory illness in China was reported to the WHO on December 31, but started weeks to months earlier
- New virus = no human immunity
- The WHO implemented the incident management system
- By January 20, cases had spread to Thailand, Japan, and Korea
- Community acquired illnesses in several countries across the globe had been identified by late February
- See a detailed history on the WHO website
- We have learned what works and what doesn’t from previous outbreaks
Virology

**Incubation Period:** Estimated to be 2-14 days

**Mode of Transmission:** Droplets which can spread 3-6 feet within a person coughing

Asymptomatic individuals have been documented to transmit the virus

**Transmissibility:** Estimated to be somewhere between 2-4. This means that one infected person will on average spread the virus to 2-4 individuals.

**Severity:** 80% of individuals with documented COVID-19 disease have asymptomatic/mild illness.

Mortality rate 2-3%, but likely lower since asymptomatic individuals are less likely to seek care and get tested.

**Convalescence:** CDC has determined that viral shedding may occur for 15-30 days after onset of infection.
Assessment

- Global Spread – potential pandemic classification
- 16% of those infected will get seriously ill
- Significant anxiety and concern across the globe
- No vaccine – standard flu symptom management
- Testing kits are slowly becoming more available
- Community response
  - Containment vs. mitigation strategy
  - Potential impact to schools, labor productivity, and events
    - Quarantine
    - Travel restrictions
- Great resource: the Johns Hopkins map

*CDC – Locations with confirmed COVID-19 Cases Global Map (3/5/2020)*
Recommendations

It’s still cold and flu season:

• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol hand sanitizers are also effective.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
• Stay home if you are sick (except to get medical care).
• Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. If you use a tissue, wash your hands afterward.
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
• Avoid large crowds in small spaces (don’t hug, kiss or shake hands).
• Stay 6 feet away from people who are sick or wear an N-95 mask
• Wear a surgical mask only if you are sick and coughing; the CDC does not currently recommend the use of masks among the general public.
It’s Human Nature...
Helpful Links Promoting Hand Hygiene

- WHO: Clean Hands Program
- CDC: Proper Use of Hand Sanitizer
- CDC: Washing with Soap and Water
- Tik-Tok Video (Vietnam)
Healthcare Delivery

- Infection Control Planning – Based on contagion
  - Source control, screening areas, and visitor restrictions
  - PPE and isolation general considerations and guidelines
  - Environment cleaning
- Human Resources
  - Equipped (Personal Protective Equipment/fit tested)
  - Trained (Donning and doffing)
  - Clearly defined workflows
  - Communication (including with Labor unions)
  - Staffing (including plans for contingent staff to support furloughs or illness)
- Supply chain strategy
  - Monitor supplies and respond early to anticipated needs
  - Resources stewardship
Healthcare Delivery

• Screening workflows for COVID-19 patients and visitors

• Communication Plan
  – Internal for staff
  – External for patients and community
  – Mitigate fear

• Hospital facilities:
  – Service line workflows and protocols
  – Patient management including co-horting
  – Ancillary service workflow and supply plan (Pharmacy, lab, radiology, etc.)

• Outpatient
  – Messaging for schedulers and advice call lines
  – Well established workflows for COVID-19
  – Capitalize on Telehealth (video/phone) alternative access to care
Helpful Resources for Hospitals

- Centers for Disease Control: Guide for Healthcare Facilities
- World Health Organization: Technical Guidance for Hospitals
- Kaiser Permanente: COVID-19 Mitigation Playbook Template
International Perspective

- Preparing for 3-8 weeks of increasing numbers
- Travel restrictions
- Twitter: Public Health England
- UK Coronavirus Action Plan
- BBC Link
Helpful Resources

- World Health Organization
  - Online Training
- Centers for Disease Control
Questions?