COVID-19 Weekly Updates

Coronavirus: What Fire Chiefs Need to Know

Monday, May 4, 2020 | 4 PM ET

iafc.org/covid19
Before we begin

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Before we begin

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INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS

Chief Gary Ludwig, IAFC President

Fire Chief John Sinclair, Chair COVID19 Task Force

Dr. Jim Augustine, MD, FACEP, IAFC COVID-19 TF, EMS Section Representative

Mr. Ken LaSala, IAFC Director of Government Relations

AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Chief Steve Pegram, Chair Economic Crisis Task Force

Dan DeGryse - Battalion Chief (Retired) Chicago Fire Department and Director of the Rosecrance Florian Program
Fire Chief Gary Ludwig

IAFC President
Watching Hospitalizations and Deaths

*Deaths include U.S. residents only.

SOURCE: CDC and USA Today Analysis
Coronavirus: What we are Learning

• Is one of our Staff Members Sick?
  • Symptom Check
  • Thermometer
• Is the Patient Sick?
  • Pulse oximeter
Coronavirus: What we are Learning

- 50% of deaths are in “senior facilities”
- There are large numbers of asymptomatic persons
- There are a broad range of symptoms and acuities
Personnel Health and Safety
Checking personnel health on arrival for shift or response – symptoms first, then temperature

Health monitor process/forms each staff member

Masks are likely to come off in the station first
Coronavirus: Testing for the Virus

PCR = Polymerase Chain Reaction
A method to analyze for a short sequence of RNA
A swab of nose or throat, or spit in a bottle
Many have rapid answers (within an hour)
Testing for Antibodies

The FDA has resources for health care providers regarding serological tests intended to detect antibodies to COVID Links:

Letter to Health Care Providers
FAQs on Diagnostic Testing for SARS-CoV-2
FDA Fact Sheet - Serological Testing for Antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Fire EMS Research Programs are Starting
Testing for Antibodies

- Antibody Testing
- IgM is the first one found
- IgG is the later one found, and longer lasting
- “Durable Immunity” unknown at present
• Testing is becoming key to future waves
• Some with rapid answers looking for the virus
• Then the application of antibody tests

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<th>Test Results</th>
<th>Clinical Significance</th>
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COVID Wave Scenarios
Ctr for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP)
States, territories, and tribal health authorities should plan for the worst-case scenario (Scenario 2), including no vaccine availability or herd immunity.

Government agencies and healthcare delivery organizations should develop strategies to ensure adequate protection for healthcare workers when disease incidence surges.

Government officials should develop concrete plans, including triggers for reinstituting mitigation measures, for dealing with disease peaks when they begin.

Risk communication messaging from government officials should incorporate the concept that pandemic will not end soon, and people need to prepare for possible periodic resurgences of disease over the next 2 years.
Return and Reopening

Opening America

In order to get and keep America open, states, tribes, localities, and territories must be able to quickly identify new cases, break chains of transmission, and protect first responders and health care workers from infection.

- Testing
- Identification
- Containment
Coronavirus: Planning for Future Waves

- This fall – Watch the southern hemisphere
- Problem is mixing with influenza and winter diseases
- Our members are tired, and stressed
- The PPE situation needs to be addressed on this continent
- A second shutdown is possible
- When will the vaccine be ready and safe?
Fire Chief John Sinclair
Chair COVID19 Task Force
Legislation

• Call to Action:
  • $5 billion for AFG and $5 billion for SAFER
  • Waive requirements, including cost share, and allow fire departments to retain and re-hire firefighters

  Short URL: iafc.org/takeaction

• New Legislation to Clarify PSOB Eligibility for the Families of COVID-19 LODDs
Grants

- COVID-19 AFG Grants – Application Period: April 28 – May 15
- FY 2019 SAFER Grants – Application Period: Open through May 15
- FY 2019 FP&S Grants - Application Period: April 27 – May 29
Chief Steve Pegram, Goshen Ohio

Chair Economic Task Force
Economic Task Force

• Cost are up / Revenue is down

• Supporting the IAFC “Call to Arms”

• AFG and SAFER Request (5-Billion Each)

• Survey / Economic Impact Dashboard (2.5% of FD = 1.2 Billion lost revenue)
Economic Task Force
Daniel DeGryse CFO, BA, CADC
Ret. BC, Chicago Fire Department
Director, Rosecrance Florian Program
Health & Wellness

Response to Crisis
• Automatic
  • Fight
  • Flight
  • Freeze

• Learned
  • Conditioned or linked responses
  • Pavlov’s theories
    • Neutral stimulus (bell) becomes a conditioned stimulus
    • Fire service – intersections, smells, sounds (phone), addresses, sight (TV)
Health & Wellness

Physiology of the response

• Amygdala
• HPA axis
  • Hypothalamus
  • Pituitary
  • Adrenal glands

• Duration/Number of the response
  • Acute
  • Chronic
Health & Wellness

Signs & Symptoms
Physical or Physiology response
• Heart rate
• Uncomfortable/Uneasy
• Headache
• Fatigue

Psychological response
• Anger/Irritability
• Fear
• Hopelessness
• Guilt
Health & Wellness

Behavioral response

- Conflict
- Eating
- Sleeping
- Withdrawal/Isolation
Health & Wellness

Recovery
• Time
• Distance
• Shielding

Self-care
• Rest
• Connection
• Family
• Release

* Just like hydration, if you wait until you need it, it may be too late
Health & Wellness

Support

• Leadership work together
  • Chief
  • Officers
  • Senior FF

• Assume everyone has stress
• Easy on the emails
• Offer your time
• Attend roll calls
• Offer positive feedback
Health & Wellness

Thank you for all that you do!!!

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IAFC WEBINARS

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