

IAFC WEBINARS



COVID-19 Weekly Updates

Monday, June 1 | 4PM ET

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Fire Chief Gary Ludwig

IAFC President

Statement from the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Gary Ludwig, President and Chairman of the Board

We Are Not Your Enemy

We are here to help. That is what firefighters, paramedics and EMTs do. Especially in the most difficult of times. That is what we are witnessing across the United States right now, one of the most difficult times for our country and firefighters find themselves helping wherever they can.

Despite extremely dangerous conditions, the nation's firefighters are on the front lines attending to the injured and extinguishing fires. We do not judge. We act. That is why it is enormously distressing to see our firefighters and EMS personnel attacked by stones, rocks, bricks, fireworks, and in other ways.

No one's cause is furthered by bringing harm to those who are sworn to protect us. These are the same people who have risked their safety to come to our homes in recent months to treat you or a loved one during the COVID-19 pandemic. The same people who ran toward the towers on 9/11. The same people who will fight through smoke and flames to get to your child trapped in their bedroom.

Firefighters have only one mission – to save lives and protect property. Please help them complete that mission safely.

On behalf of the leadership of 1.2 million firefighters in the United States, please understand the safety of our people is paramount. Please allow them to carry out their sworn duty and allow them to serve others before self.



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Resources (will be available on the IAFC website along with the recording of this webinar):

Incidents Involving Mass Gatherings: <https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/response-considerations-incidents-involving-crowds-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Fire service & civil unrest: <https://www.firehouse.com/home/news/10503603/fire-ems-response-to-civil-unrest-events>

Ballistic protection: <https://www.iafc.org/iCHIEFS/iCHIEFS-article/ballistic-protection-in-the-fire-ems-world>

NFPA Responder Forum on Civil Unrest: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Resources/Fire-service/Responder-Forum/2015-NFPA-responders-forum-Civil-Unrest-Paper.ashx?la=en>

Urban Fire Forum paper: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Membership/member-sections/Metro-Chiefs/Urban-Fire-Forum/2016/2016UFFCivilUnrestWhitePaper.ashx>



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INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS

Chief Gary Ludwig, IAFC President

Mr. Ken LaSala, IAFC Director of Government Relations

Fire Chief John Sinclair, Chair COVID19 Task Force

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

AND SPECIAL GUEST

Captain Frank Leto, Deputy Director, Counseling Service Unit, Fire Department of New York



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Fire Chief John Sinclair
Chair COVID19 Task Force



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Ken LaSala

Director of Government Relations and Policy



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HEROES Act (H.R. 6800)

- **AFG:**
 - CARES Act & FY 2020: Waive local cost share & maintenance of expenditure reqts.
 - New \$500 million: Waive local cost share, maximum amount, maintenance of expenditure reqts, peer review and limits on categories of depts.
- **SAFER:** New \$500 million & FY 2020: Waive requirements, including local cost share, and allow fire departments to retain and re-hire firefighters.



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HEROES Act (H.R. 6800)

- Permanently extend exclusion of any state or local property tax benefits and up to \$600 in other benefits for volunteer fire & EMS from federal taxation.
- Creates \$500 deduction for first responders' training, tuition and uniforms.
- Creation of HEROES fund to grant hazardous duty pay for essential workers.
- Repeal statutory requirement that FCC auction T-Band.
- Clarification of PSOB eligibility for families of COVID-19 LODDs and disabilities.
- **Please continue to contact your Senators about the HEROES Act:**
 - www.IAFC.org/TakeAction



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PSOB Legislation

- **H.R. 6509, Legislation to Clarify PSOB Eligibility for the Families of COVID-19 LODDs and Disabilities**
 - Requirements:
 - Officer engaged in line of duty action between January 20, 2020 & January 20, 2022.
 - Officer diagnosed with COVID-19 (or displayed evidence of disease) within 45 days of last time on duty.
 - Provisions for 9/11 WTC cases.
 - Officer had COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) at the time of death.
- **Passed House on May 27**



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Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

- H.R. 7010
 - Extends covered period to December 31.
 - Allows beneficiaries to spend funds over 24 weeks or until the end of the year.
 - Beneficiaries have up to five years to repay funds owed on loan.
 - Reduce amount to be used on payroll from 75% to 60%.
 - Documentation requirements if employer says they cannot re-hire employees.



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Coronavirus: What Fire Chiefs Need to Know

May 18, 2020

James J Augustine, MD

Fire EMS Medical Director



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Coronavirus: What to be Watching

- Your EMS volume
- State and local case tracking systems as reopening occurs
- COVID hospitalizations and deaths
- COVID outbreaks in congregate settings.
Do you need a strike team?
- Summer weather event preparedness



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Coronavirus: EMS Volumes

- Georgia EMS data, comparing April 2019 to April 2020
- 911 EMS Calls down 13%
- EMS Transports down 18%
- MVCs down 55%
- OHCA up 25%
- DOAs up 50%

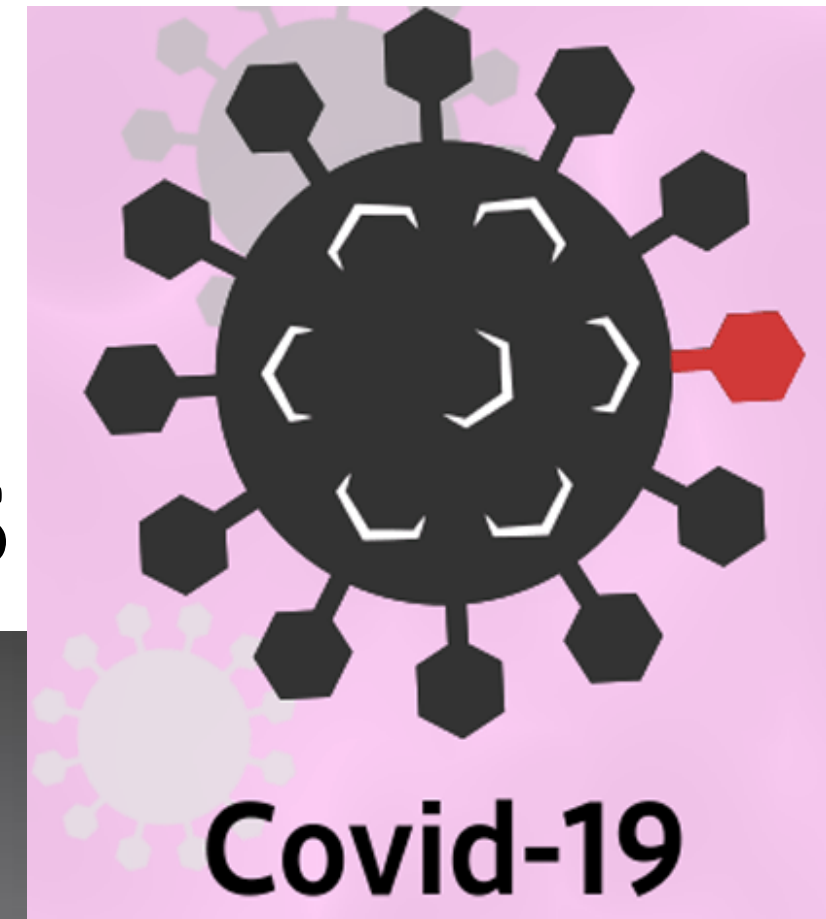
**Nationwide ED
volumes in March
into April are down
48%**



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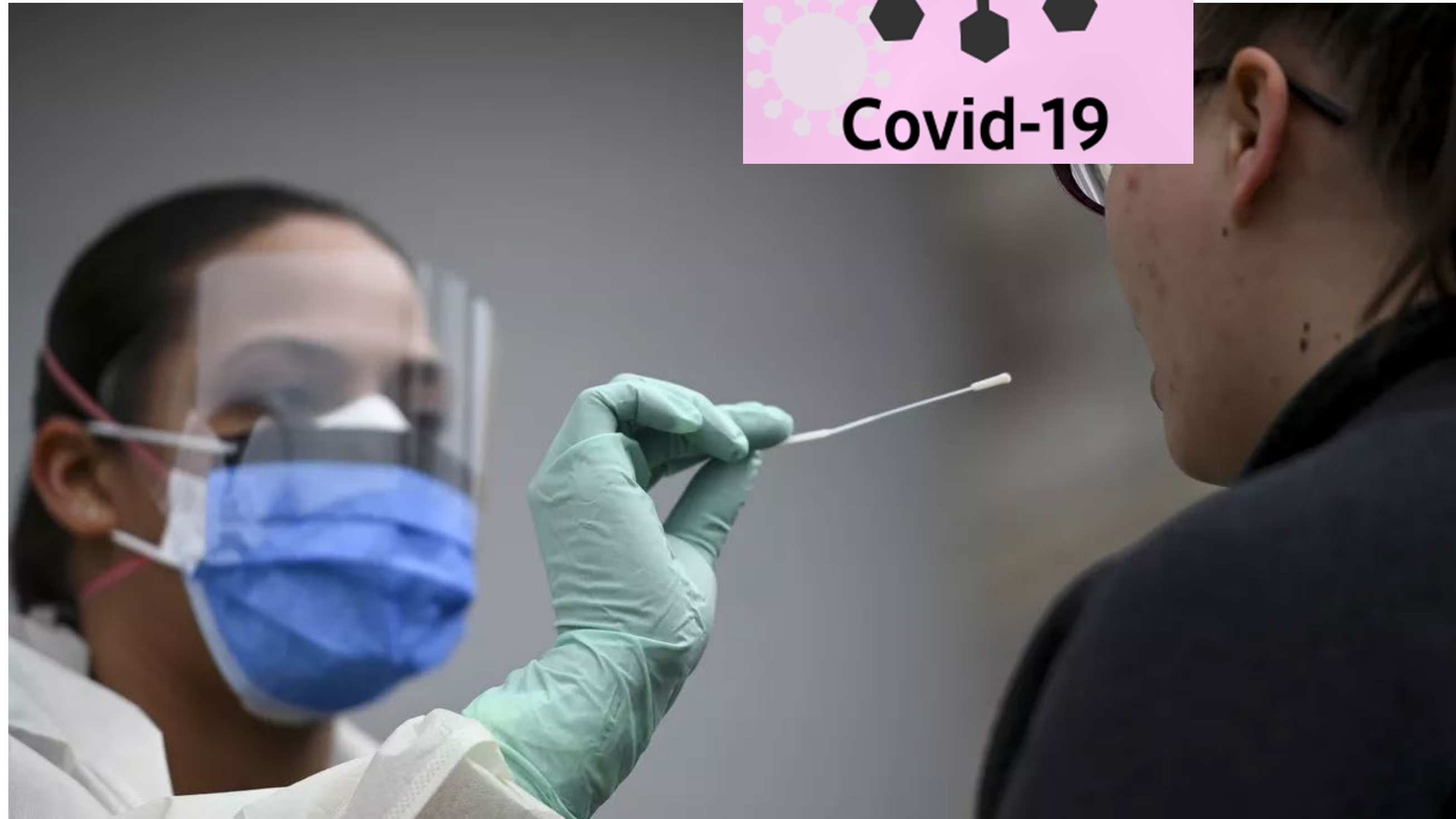
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Coronavirus: Testing for the Virus



**PCR = Polymerase
Chain Reaction**

More options coming,
more volume, more
speed





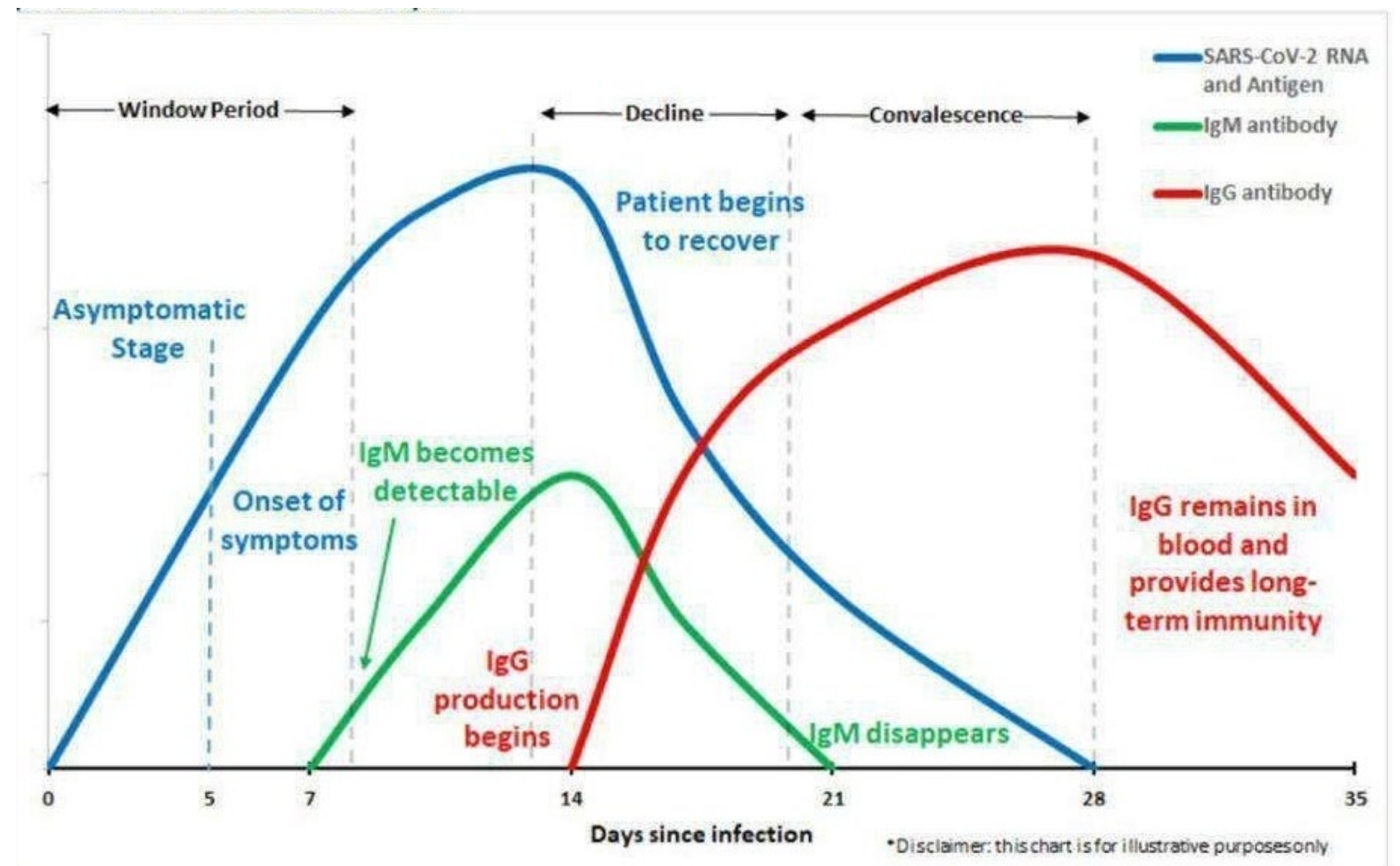
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- Point of care antigen testing
- Antibody tests are occurring in the public health setting

COVID Testing Sequence

Test Results			Clinical Significance
PCR	IgM	IgG	
+	-	-	Infected, window before antibodies
+	+	-	Infected, early stage
+	+	+	Infected, active stage OR Persistent Shedding
+	-	+	Infected, late stage or recurrent
-	+	-	Early stage infection, PCR false negative
-	-	+	Prior infection, with durable immunity

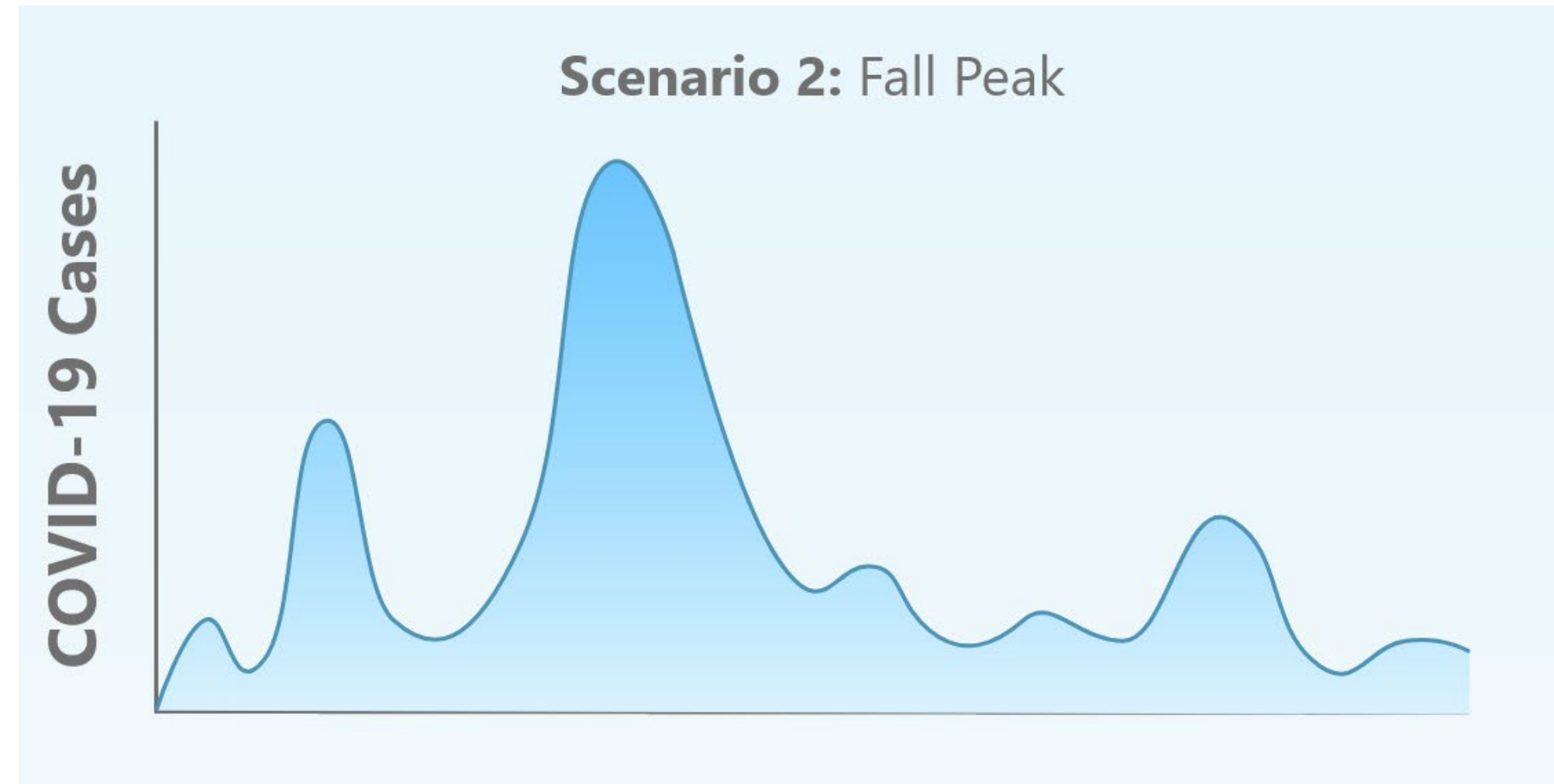




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- COVID Planning for the Fall
The Problems: COVID, plus Flu, plus RSV, plus seasonal pneumonia
Need to develop public messaging programs
Need for testing at more sites, perhaps at homes
Chiefs need plan for flu vaccinations for members and the community

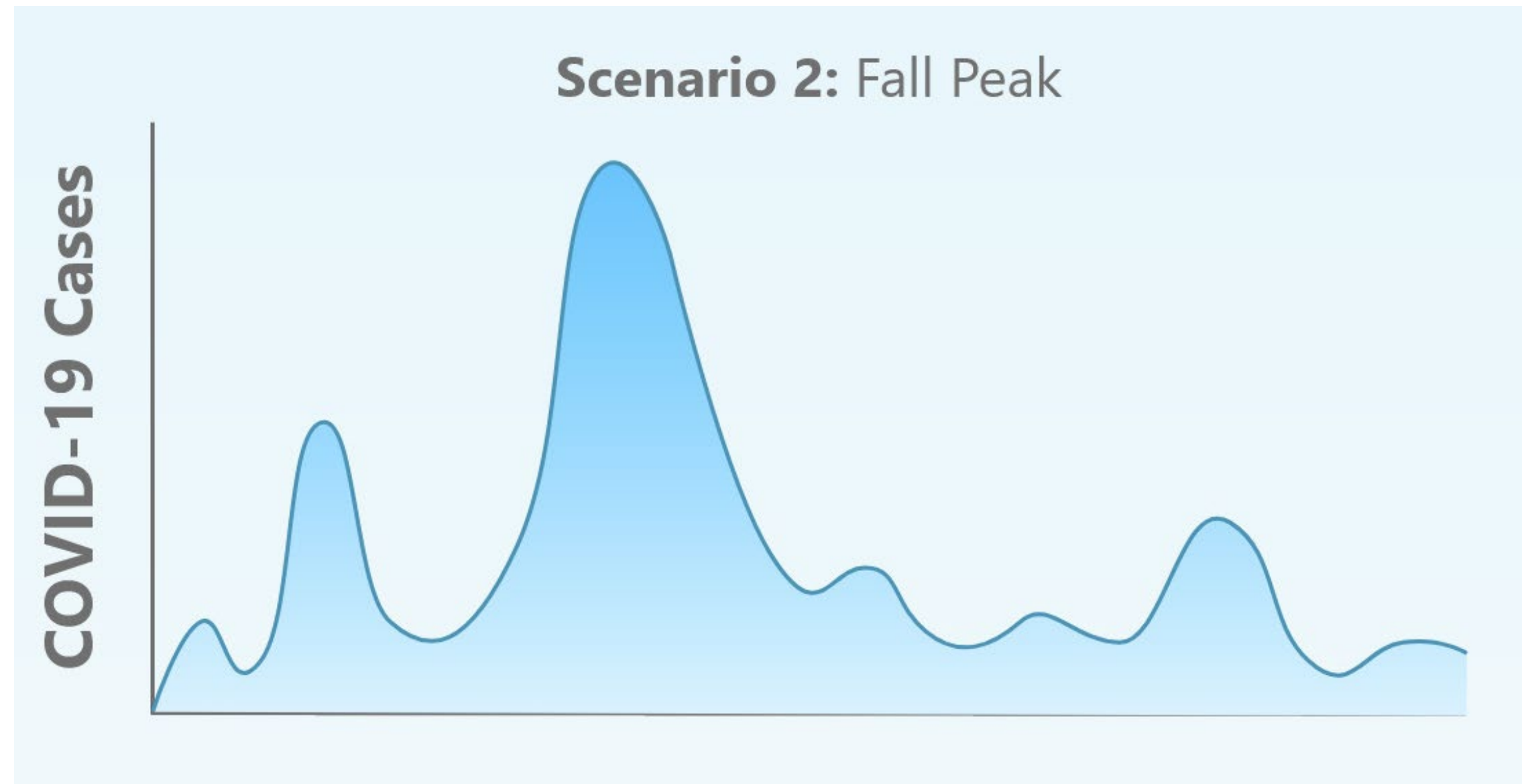




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- COVID Planning for the Fall
Better Processes
More PPE
Rapid Testing at more sites
Full Hospitals – Hot or Cold
Designations by the hospitals. You need to be involved in that process





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Coronavirus: Planning for Future Waves

- A Second Shutdown is possible
- A busier system mixing with influenza and winter diseases
- Testing out of the hospital. Will you be involved?
- Our members need better protection, with the PPE situation addressed on this continent



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Behavioral Health Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Captain Frank Leto
Deputy Director
FDNY Counseling Service



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FDNY Demographics

- 17,321 Employees
- 10,951 Uniformed Firefighters
- 4,274 Uniformed EMTs, Paramedics,
- 2,096 Civilian employees

218 firehouses

- 197 engine companies
- 143 ladder (or truck) companies
- 5 rescue, 8 squad, 3 marine and the hazardous materials (hazmat) company

39 EMS Stations



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FDNY COVID Protocol Changes

- Work Schedules
- Detail Procedures
- CPR Protocols
- Daily Changes as more information related Covid becomes available



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10-37 Code 1

3,194 Cardiac arrest at home 3/20- 4/10

305 Cardiac calls April 6

10x What would be expected



**FDNY Incident Management Team
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update
April 12, 2020**



<p>FDNY COVID-19 Cumulative Returned to Service ALL Diagnoses (as reported by BHS at 0930)</p> <p>Fire 1,147 EMS 723 TOTAL 1,870</p>
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<p>Total FDNY Personnel Currently on Medical Leave for COVID-19 Related Illness 2,045</p>		
<p>FDNY Personnel Tested Positive for COVID-19 (Current number as reported by BHS at 0930)</p> <p>Fire 468 EMS 201 Civilian 55 TOTAL 724</p>	<p>FDNY Personnel COVID-19 symptomatic without reported test results (Current number as reported by BHS at 0930)</p> <p>Fire 683 EMS 453 Civilian 185 TOTAL 1,321</p>	

****ATTENTION****

- The Department is mourning the death of Supervising Fire Protection Inspector Edward Mungin, 56, who died this week from COVID-19 after 8 years with the department. He is the fourth FDNY member to die from COVID-19. Inspector Mungin worked in the Bureau of Fire Prevention where he supervised Inspectors assigned to FDNY's Shelter Task Force and Three Quarter Housing Taskforce. He is survived by his wife, Patricia and their two children.
- The Department is mourning the loss of Kellie Childs, 54, who died this week from COVID-19 after 32 years with the Department. Ms. Childs worked in the Bureau of Revenue Management as Director of the Cashiers' Unit. There, she supervised collection of customer payments for fire prevention licenses and certifications. She is survived by her daughter Amber, as well as her brother Derek.
- **Safety Message-** As the COVID-19 positive numbers begin to decrease slowly, and there are signs that we are flattening the curve of COVID-19, we must continue to maintain safety protocols that the department has established. It is the responsibility of each employee to use their PPE, best practices, and procedures set by this department to protect each member and the public. Continue to maintain your situational awareness and vigilance to continue to flatten the curve.



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Behavioral Health Implications of the Crisis

- Anxiety of Becoming Infected
- Anxiety of Infecting Others
- Behavioral Health Issues of Quarantine and Illness
- Traumatic effects of responses
- Isolation
- Child and Elder Care
- Grief
- Financial Stress
- Domestic Violence
- Exacerbation of pre-existing conditions ie. Substance Use Disorder, Depression,
- Anxiety Disorders, PTSD etc.
- Emotional Exhaustion



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Crisis Leadership Responsibilities

- Competent and Flexible Plan
- Communicate Current Information
- Be Visible
- Give accolades often
- Express gratitude



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FDNY Behavioral Health Approach During the Peak

- 24/7 Mental Health Hotline
- Virtual Peer Support
- Tele-Health Sessions
- Relaxing Bereavement Leave Rules
- Social Media/Intranet Resource Blitz



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Current and Long-Term Plans

- IAFF Peer Training for 100 Members
- BH Education Campaign... Video, Flyers, Posters, Direct Mailings
- New Hires Outreach
- Expand Telehealth
- Officer BH trainings
- Prepare for the fall and winter

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