

Situation Report (SIT-REP) Version: 1

Incident Name: COVID-19
Report Date: 16 March 2020
Report Time: 1700 Hours



For Additional Information Contact:

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Alleman, Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Clive, Des Moines, Elkhart, Grimes, Johnston, Mitchellville, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Polk County, Runnells, Urbandale, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights

SECTION 1: SITUATION DESCRIPTION

The COVID-19 is a world-wide pandemic according to the World Health Organization. The President of the United States of America has declared a Public Health Emergency and has issued an Emergency Declaration. Within Iowa, Governor Reynolds has issued a public health emergency proclamation. All of these declarations and proclamations have relaxed various authorities and regulations to respond to this incident. Those changes will continue to be assessed and may be altered. Individuals should contact their respective authorities for those changes.

Currently, in Iowa, we have community spread, which means that people are becoming infected in ways that cannot be traced back to travel or known infected individuals.

Personal protective equipment, testing, screening and surveillance guidelines and recommendations continue to be evaluated and are adjusted frequently as more information is gathered about this virus. Current guidelines should be sourced from Polk County Health Department's webpage.

SECTION 2: FORECAST

Local Forecast Details: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/>

SECTION 3: OPERATIONAL FOCUS AREAS, PRIORITIES AND ASSUMPTIONS

Operational Focus Areas

1. Situational State/Situational Analysis
2. Determine Priority of Incident(s)
3. Acquire/Allocate Critical Resources
4. Crisis Information Management
5. Develop/Advise/Support Policy-Level Decisions
6. Coordinate with Elected/Appointed Officials
7. Coordination with County, State, Federal, Private, and Non-Governmental Components

Incident Priorities

1. Care for Life, Safety and Health
2. Stabilize Incident
3. Recover

Planning assumptions

1. Public health preparedness will limit the scope of the disease spread (Phase 1)
2. It is likely that a localized outbreak will occur in Polk County (Phase 2)
3. Polk County may experience community spread of the disease (Phase 3)
4. Polk County Public Health may not be informed by IDPH of a positive case or tests submitted
5. Resources such as personal protective equipment will be very limited and possibly unavailable
6. Sharing of valid information with community partners and the public will ease fears and drive appropriate actions
7. This is a fast-paced and evolving incident and information will change and require updating on a frequent basis
8. Coordination and collaboration among community partners is necessary and will be done using the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS)
9. Safety message (ICS-208) will be followed in the building

SECTION 4: ACTIVATION AND STAFFING LEVEL

Current activation level is a 3 (of 5) – “Limited” and expected to remain for an unknown period of time. Staff will continue to coordinate with local entities on individual basis and scheduled conference calls as needed.

Activation Level	Generalized Description of Activities	
5	Monitoring	Existing resources and capabilities are not necessarily coordinated outside of their own jurisdiction or outside of their immediate discipline. Normal administrative, planning, training, and exercise activities are scheduled and carried out
4	Limited	Request of limited coordination by available EMA staff personnel for a single jurisdiction or single discipline. This is done from the incident scene, command post, or agency administrative office. Select procedures and portions of the CEP are utilized as needed
3	Partial	Activities include the activation of select ESFs. Primary and support entities are notified to support incident activities and staff the EOC. EOC may be activated but 24-hour staffing is unlikely. CEP Base Plan concepts and select ESFs are implemented
2	Full	In a full-scale activation, all ESF primary and support entities are notified and the EOC is fully staffed for 24-hour coverage. Activities include the coordination of local resources with the potential of integrating state and federal resources into local response priorities
1	Advanced	An advanced level means that local capabilities are largely depleted or inadequate to respond to the wide geographic nature or complexity of the incident. Activities include coordinating with state and federal entities and their resources

SECTION 5: PROCLAMATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

Local Emergency Proclamation: None

Governor’s Proclamation: March 9, 2020

Presidential National Emergency Declared: March 13, 2020

SECTION 6: DISEASE IMPACT

Confirmed COVID in Polk County	1
Under monitoring / voluntary isolation or quarantine	Always changing

SECTION 7: EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) STATUS

The Polk County Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEP) is built on 15 core emergency support functions or ESFs. The ESFs provide the structure for coordinating interagency and interjurisdictional support for significant incidents and planned events in Polk County. The ESF structure includes mechanisms used to provide support to local

jurisdictions both for unplanned emergency incidents and planned events alike. The following subsections provide a briefing of activities by emergency support function.

ESF #1: Transportation (transportation of goods/supplies and people; route management; routes blocked; school delays and closings, etc.)

DART: Daily disinfection protocols on all vehicles. Drivers have cleaning wipes and hand sanitizer. Increased frequency of high-touch areas in all facilities. No change in services. Asking public to not ride when sick, cover coughs and maintaining social distancing.

DSM Airport: Airlines are greatly reducing domestic service. Check with airlines to make sure flights are still scheduled. Some discussions about changing how food kiosks serve food, but no decision yet. Discussions about employee safety ongoing. Enhanced cleaning of touch surfaces is in place.

LINK: Transportation still available for persons served as part of work plan, but canceled for leisure. Heightened sanitation on all vehicles.

ESF #2: Communications (911; paging; dispatch; warning; etc.)

DM Dispatch: No current restrictions on ambulance availability. New call protocol will ask patients with “breathing problems” and “sick” call types about travel or exposure to COVID confirmed person. Dispatch center restricted only to call center staff (no visitors, no other personnel).

PC Dispatch: Pushing IDPH and PCEMA updates to EMS, law Enforcement and fire fighters. Use Emergency Medical Dispatch protocol to identify potential COVID cases.

ESF #3: Public Works and Engineering (water, wastewater, debris management, plowing operations, traffic control devices, etc.)

DM Waterworks: Maintain water production by keeping employees well, through social distancing, hygiene, and cessation of home calls. Anticipate closing of call center to customers, temporary suspension of water shutoffs.

ESF #4: Firefighting (suppression; prevention; and evacuation)

DM Fire: High degree of cooperation among first responders to share SOGs and equipment research. Current discussions on how to triage changes when disease more widespread.

Urbandale Fire: cancelled all classes and public appearances.

ESF #5: Emergency Management (EOC and CEP coordination; situation unit, liaison with state and federal entities; etc.)

- EOC activated on 03/06/2020
- Initial EOC Briefing conducted on 3/10/2020
- Medical Coordination Center planning begin 3/13/2020
- EOC Operations Briefing scheduled for 3/17/2020
- Press conference on

ESF #6: Mass Care, Housing, Human Services (ARC, Salvation Army, United Way, etc.)

Red Cross: Monitoring response partner needs. Implementing national disaster matrix for providing assistance to disaster victims. Maintaining capacity to respond to other natural disasters.

Salvation Army: Canteen ready to be deployed for meals or supply drop-offs. Normal operations continuing with precautions to avoid transmittal, such as more pre-packaged meals.

United Way 2-1-1: serving as statewide hotline for general COVID questions, and Polk County hotline for medical questions (answered by nurses from Central Iowa medical systems).

ESF #7: Resource Support (support not necessarily mentioned in other ESFs)

Safeguard Iowa: Gathering best practices from CDC, IDPH, PCHD and pushing out to 750 member employers on employee safety and sanitation, social distancing, mental health, work-from-home. Getting answers to questions that employers need.

ESF #8: Public Health and Medical Services (EMS; hospitals, healthcare facilities; mental health, etc.)

ESF-8 was activated on 3/6/2020; however the ESF-8 team has been meeting since January 29. As a part of that planning, a phased approach was developed: Preparedness (Phase 1); Localized Outbreak (Phase 2); Community Spread (Phase 3).

Medical Coordination Center planning group was established to address key healthcare system issues, which included embedding medical personnel in 2-1-1, clarification on testing protocols, EMS protocols, and PPE recommendations. This group represents the hospitals in Polk County, clinics and representatives for EMS services.

Mental health providers are coordinating the needs for the homeless population, public and healthcare providers.

As cases or potential cases are identified, public health staff are continuing their contact tracing and providing PH guidance.

A press conference was held on 3/16 and the PCHD website is reviewed and updated daily with the most current information. The communicable disease team continues to take many calls to answer questions of the public and clinicians.

Critical PPE and other medical resources remain scarce. However, the guidance continues to change as more cases are confirmed and more is discovered about the disease.

ESF #9: Search and Rescue (extrication and location of missing persons)

Nothing to report

ESF #10: Hazardous Materials

Nothing to report

ESF #11: Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Pets

ARL: Currently no change in services or hours but updates at arl-iowa.org. Some event cancellations, per CDC guidelines. Keeping employees safe by providing proper PPE, and reducing public contact. There is no evidence of animals being a threat of either transmitting or receiving COVID-19.

ESF #12: Energy

Nothing to report

ESF #13: Law Enforcement and Security

Law enforcement, when performing LE duties, should not need N95 protection. If they are performing medical/life-saving procedures involving the airway, N95 protection is recommended.

Johnston: Issuance of PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection). Enhanced hygiene by more frequently uniform washing, changing out of uniforms before going home. Reduction of non-essential trainings and education. Prioritizing which calls must be done in person, vs more administrative calls to be done by phone.

DMPD: Services as usual and facilities to remain open. Officers issued right types and amounts of PPE. Asking officers to use discretion on when to choose citation instead of custody to minimize contact when possible.

Windsor Heights: Have restricted public access to City Hall and Public Safety building. Requiring deeper cleaning of police and fire equipment and vehicles.

ESF #14: Mitigation and Recovery (disaster assistance program coordination)

Nothing to report

ESF #15: Public Information

Continue to update PCHD website and social media
Handle and respond to media requests as needed
Coordinate press conference
Mitigate rumor control

SECTION 8: REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Personal protective equipment continues to be requested, but are unable to be fulfilled in large quantities. However, requests are being forwarded to the State Emergency Operations Center so orders can be fulfilled when resources do become available.

SECTION 9: OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION