# COVID-19 and Public Health: A Discussion Session for Campuses

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# **COVID-19** Perspective

- SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, did not exist as a human disease before late 2019.
- February 2020, the Lombardy region in northern Italy.
- Early March, the disease was spreading in Seattle, Washington and California.
- On March 6, the first Kentucky resident tested positive for COVID-19 and Gov. Beshear declared a state of emergency.
- On March 13, President Trump declared a national state of emergency.
- In March, modeling predicted unmitigated spread of COVID-19 could cause the death of 45,000 – 90,000 Kentuckians and 2 – 4 million Americans, roughly 1 – 2% of our state and our nation in a single year.
- Now the US has experienced the devastation in New York, followed by Louisiana, Texas, Florida, and Arizona.
- There is no vaccine, no cure, and no effective COVID-19-specific treatment.

# **Public Health Risk Reduction Tools**

- Social Distancing
- Cloth Face Coverings
- Screening and Temperature Checks
- Hand and Surface Hygiene
- Contact Tracing

# **Social Distancing**

- COVID-19 is primarily spread through viral particles carried in by respiratory droplets released from the nose and mouth when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, laughs, or sings.
- 20-40+% of the time, infected persons may have no symptoms of COVID-19 illness any time during their infection and spread the virus to others.
- Infected persons can spread viral particles for two days <u>before</u> symptoms manifest - called preinfection.
- Staying ≥six feet apart from others is an essential tool we have to mitigate this pandemic.



# **Cloth Face Coverings**

- Since the coronavirus spreads by respiratory droplets, covering the nose and mouth is the way a person can prevent spreading the virus if they are not six feet away from others.
- Cloth face coverings provide the barrier needed to diminish the spread (surgical masks and N95 masks are not needed in schools except for certain nursing activities) and can protect the wearer to some degree.



# **Screening and Temperature Checks**

- Although many people with COVID-19 infection are asymptomatic, more than 60% <u>do</u> have symptoms.
- Requiring persons with symptoms or active infection to self-isolate is essential to reduce disease spread.
- Fever is the most common symptom of COVID-19.
- Preventing a student or staff member with a temperature >100.4° to enter schools will substantially decrease the potential exposure of students and staff to this illness.



# Hand and Surface Hygiene

- Viral particles transmitted in respiratory droplets live for variable time on objects and surfaces.
- Our hands frequently touch our eyes, nose, and mouth thereby increasing the risk of spreading infection.
- Frequent hand cleaning and sanitizing reduces the risk of transmitting disease.
- Frequently cleaning surfaces contaminated by respiratory droplets is also an important step to reduce transmission of disease.



# **Contact Tracing**

- Public health has used contact tracing for decades to identify a person with a communicable illness, isolate that person, and quarantine others with high risk exposure to the infected person to prevent disease spread.
- This technique has worked with measles, chicken pox, mumps, and multiple other illnesses seen in school settings.
- Having a plan to prevent exposure of your students and staff to COVID-19 should include preparing to assist contact tracers with their investigations.



### Balancing Public Health with Other Concerns

- These tools are disruptive to our lives as we have known them.
- Until medical science produces a vaccine, treatment, or cure, these tools, however disruptive, are the ones available to reduce the risk of rapid COVID-19 spread with its associated overwhelming of the healthcare system and loss of human life.
- These tools require education, adaptation, patience, and tolerance.
- The Kentucky Department for Public Health and local health departments stand ready to advise and assist school systems in implementation of these tools.



#### Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by US States/Territories







### Early Pandemic: New York vs Kentucky New York – An Ominous Warning



http://www.91-divoc.com/pages/covid-visualization/ Accessed 7/12/2020



### Current Pandemic: Arizona vs Kentucky New York in the Desert? Not in the Bluegrass.



http://www.91-divoc.com/pages/covid-visualization/ Accessed 7/13/2020



New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases per Day by US States/Territories

### **Current Pandemic KY Spotlight Only**





http://www.91-divoc.com/pages/covid-visualization/ Accessed 7/13/2020

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### Florida vs. Kentucky Surge in FL After Public Health Orders Lifted



Accessed 7/12/2020

### UK Gatton College of Business and Economics: Social-Distancing Slowed COVID-19





#### **Tracking Our COVID-19 Response**

Each state's progress towards a new normal



BRUISED RED	RED	YELLOW	GREEN
Uncontrolled spread	Trending poorly	Making progress	Trending better





Testing Targets Capacity Experts Blog Resources



#### HGHI Releases Guidance for COVID Suppression



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#### COVID RISK LEVEL: GREEN

LESS THAN ONE CASE PER 100,000 PEOPLE

#### **ON TRACK FOR CONTAINMENT**

MONITOR WITH VIRAL TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING PROGRAM

#THEPATHTOZERO

#### COVID RISK LEVEL: YELLOW

1-9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

#### **COMMUNITY SPREAD**

RIGOROUS TEST AND TRACE PROGRAMS ADVISED

#THEPATHTOZERO

COVID RISK LEVEL: ORANGE

10-24 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

ACCELERATED SPREAD

STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS AND/OR RIGOROUS TEST AND TRACE PROGRAMS ADVISED

#THEPATHTOZERO

COVID RISK LEVEL: RED

25\* CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

**TIPPING POINT** 

STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS NECESSARY

#THEPATHTOZERO







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# **Questions posted**

- Large scale events
- Masks
- Postsecondary "requirements"
- Off site internships
- Testing
- Off campus activity by students

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